# ERIOGONUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**VOLUME 6 NO. 1** January 2014



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. focarium

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Idaho.

Photographer: JL Reveal http://www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/digitalimages/digslideindexEriogonum.html

#### Registration Information – Eriogonum Society/INPS Annual Meeting 2014

LaMar Orton, President Idaho Native Plant Society 2014 Meeting Arrangements Chair

#### **Welcome to South-Central Idaho**

The 2014 Eriogonum Society meeting will be centered in Twin Falls, Idaho, giving us the opportunity to explore the botanical and geological wonders of the middle Snake River Plain, including the Bennett Hills and Gooding City of Rocks, the South Hills (southern Sawtooth National Forest), and the Craters of the Moon. This will be a joint meeting of the Eriogonum Society and the Idaho Native Plant Society, giving us the opportunity to make new friends and take advantage of the cumulative knowledge of some of Idaho's most accomplished professional and amateur botanists.

#### **Meeting Dates**

The meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 20 through Sunday, June 22, with an optional post-meeting tour of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Fish Creek Canyon on Monday, June 23.

#### The Region

*Idaho* is a northwestern state that covers an area larger than all of New England. The northern, central, and southern fringe regions of the state are wild and mountainous, often with very limited access. The Frank

Church River of No Return Wilderness Area is the largest protected tract in the lower 48 states. The dominant geological feature of southern Idaho is the extensive Snake River Plain, a region of dry, high desert and irrigated agriculture. Idaho is known as the "Gem State" because it is a collector's paradise for many high-grade gemstones and one of only two places in the world where star garnets can be found. Idaho is the largest producer of potatoes in the US and incidentally,



potatoes are also the official state vegetable. Other official emblems include; flower: syringa (*Philadelphus lewisii*), tree: western white pine, fruit: huckleberry, fish: cutthroat trout, horse: appaloosa, insect: Monarch butterfly, and raptor: peregrine falcon.

Twin Falls is located in the center of the Snake River Plain and is the largest city in the Magic Valley of south-central Idaho (elevation, 3,750 feet; population 47,000). The city is located on the rim of the spectacular Snake River Canyon, a gash in the earth more than 500 feet deep. Historically, ancestral Native Americans used this area extensively and the Wilson Butte Cave near Twin Falls contained some of the oldest artifacts recovered in North America. The earliest documented visit by European explorers was in 1811, when a boat expedition led by Wilson Hunt was destroyed in the Snake River rapids just north of the city. Although located on the main route of the Oregon Trail, the first permanent settlement, a stage stop was not established until 1864. Further settlement and economic growth resulted from the construction of

a canal system constructed for the purpose of developing an agricultural industry, still the backbone of the regional economy.

#### **Travel to Twin Falls**

Twin Falls is located along US Interstate 84 and can be approached from either the east or west. It is possible, but less convenient to reach the city by airline. Commuter airlines serve the Magic Valley Municipal Airport in Twin Falls. It is also feasible to fly into Boise, rent a vehicle, and drive the 120 miles east to the meeting site.

#### Lodging

Arrangements have been made to serve a range of lodging preferences.

#### Motels:

<u>Please make your own reservations.</u> Below is a list of motels located near the College of Southern Idaho, the base site for the meeting. Represented are a range of quality and price. Feel free to visit the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce website to view additional lodging options (<a href="http://members.twinfallschamber.com/list/category/hotels-motels-205">http://members.twinfallschamber.com/list/category/hotels-motels-205</a>).

Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID 83301; ph. 208-733-7545.

Super 8, 1280 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID 83301; ph. 208-734-5801.

LaQuinta Inn, 539 Pole Line Rd, Twin Falls, ID 83301; ph. 208-736-9600.

Best Western, 1377 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID 83301; ph. 208-736-8000.

Motel 6, 1472 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID; ph. 208-734-3993.

Red Lion, 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID; ph. 208-734-5000.

#### Campgrounds (for those with a preference for roughing it):

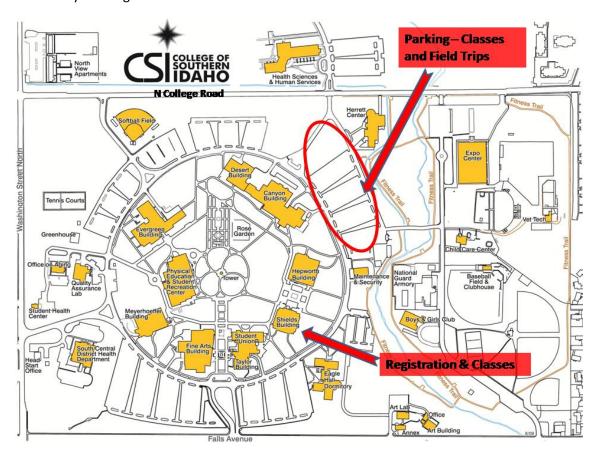
A block of 25 camp sites is being held at Anderson Camp, approximately 10 miles east of Twin Falls. <u>Please call and confirm reservations for your own campsite</u>. <u>Be sure to mention that you are with the INPS/Eriogonum Society to get the group rate</u>. <u>The campsites will be held until 6 Jun 2014</u>, at which time they will be released to the public.

- Contact information: 1188 E 990 S (off I-84), Eden, ID 83325; ph. 208-825-9800.
- See the Anderson Camp website (<a href="http://andersoncamp.com/">http://andersoncamp.com/</a>) for maps and directions.
- Campsite rates: \$ 25 (RV SITE), \$ 18 (TENT SITE).
- This is a private campground with many amenities, including food, internet, laundry, swimming pool, mini-golf, and a water slide.

Other campgrounds are listed on the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce website, at: (http://members.twinfallschamber.com/list/category/campgrounds-rv-parks-138).

#### Registration

Registration will take place on Friday, June 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at room 117 in the Shield building on CSI Campus (see map) and will continue throughout the reception at Plantasia Cactus Gardens that evening. Registration fees for the meeting total \$95 and include all classes, field trips, and the Friday and Saturday evening meals.



#### Meals

Meals associated with the Friday (June 20) evening reception and the Saturday (June 21) evening banquet, are included in the registration fee. All other meals are on your own. Pack your own lunch and carry it with you on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday field trips. Most field trips involve travel into very isolated areas and it is essential that you carry enough food and water for an all-day excursion.

#### **Instructional Classes**

On Friday, June 20, afternoon, beginning at 1:00 pm, meeting participants will be provided with instructional classes related to identification and culture of *Eriogonum* (wild buckwheats). Classes will be held in rooms 117 & 118 in the Shields Building on the College of Southern Idaho campus, 315 Falls Ave. The classes will last two hours and be taught concurrently, allowing participants to attend both. Classes offered include:

• Keying and identifying *Eriogonum* species – James Reveal: Training on buckwheat identification. All

participants will be given a key of Eriogonum species of Idaho, authored and printed specifically for this meeting, plus a thumb drive containing a key of the entire Eriogonum genus. Bring your hand lens, a pencil, and a note pad.

The art of growing buckwheats –
 Stephen Love: Instruction on harvesting and cleaning buckwheat seed, germinating seedlings, and successfully establishing *Eriogonum* species in the garden.



#### Welcome Reception/On-going Registration

On Friday, June 20, evening, beginning at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm, an opening reception will be hosted by LaMar Orton at his private 5-acre cactus and native plant garden, known as Orton Botanical

Garden, aka. Plantasia Cactus Gardens. The garden is located at 867 Filer Avenue W in Twin Falls. Food and beverages will be provided. There will be plenty of time to tour the gardens. Alcoholic beverages will not be served at the reception, but participants are welcome to bring the beverage of their choice.

#### **Banquet/Keynote Speech**

Saturday (June 21) evening is reserved for the annual banquet and business meeting, to be held at the Canyon Crest Conference



Center. (See your registration packet for a map and driving directions.) A social half-hour will start at 5:30 pm with the meal served at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, we will conduct short business meetings for both organizations and then be treated to a keynote speech.

#### **Sunday Social**

Beginning at 6:00 pm, a no-meal, informal social will be held at Dierkes Lake near Shoshone Falls on Sunday evening, June 22. Bring your own picnic and spend time visiting with friends and colleagues. (See your registration packet for a map and driving directions.)

#### **Field Trips**

Two field trips are part of the regular meeting agenda on Saturday (June 21) and Sunday (June 22). You can also choose to attend the post-meeting, all-day post-meeting tour of Craters of the Moon and Fish Creek Canyon on Monday. Parking for the field trips will be on the CSI campus near the Herrett Center (see map above).

#### Bennett Hills/Gooding City of Rocks



Tour Leader: Carol Blackburn, consulting botanist and horticulturist for the Sawtooth Botanical Garden.

Timetable: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: High clearance recommended.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 110 miles.

This field trip involves a 40 mile drive on paved roads to the Bennett Hills north-northwest of Twin Falls, then a 15 mile drive on a maintained gravel road to the Gooding City of Rocks. Following an extended stop to explore the botanical and geological features of this fascinating area, the tour will travel westward for additional stops in the Bennett Hills before returning to Twin Falls. Exploration of the Gooding City of Rocks requires non-strenuous walking and hiking.

The Bennett Hills are a chain of low hills that divide the Snake River Plain from the Camas Prairie and the adjacent Sawtooth Mountains. Positioned at the intersection of two very different habitats, the Bennett Hills are home to a unique array of plants. Among other species, we will have opportunity to see *Eriogonum thymoides* and the unusual

form of Eriogonum heracleoides var. leucophaeum.

#### South Hills

Tour Leader: Dennis Pettygrove, amateur botanist with a lifetime of experience in the South Hills.

Timetable: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: High clearance

recommended.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 75 miles.

This field trip will travel about 30 miles into the hills south of Twin Falls on Rock Creek Road, turn west on Cherry Springs Road which joins Indian Springs Road, then back east on Magic Mountain Road which will return us to Rock Creek Road and back north to Twin Falls.

Periodic stops will be made at prime *Eriogonum* 

SAWTOOTH National Force CAMPGROUND

sites, at a place where we can see remarkable populations of *Pediocactus simpsonii*, and at locales for seeing other plants of interest. A stop is schedule at Ross Falls, a grotto habitat with many water-loving

plants that has been carved out by a small water fall. As a bonus, we will stop at a hummingbird feeding station.

Monday (Jun 23) Post-Meeting Tour

#### Craters of the Moon/Fish Creek Canyon

Tour Leaders: Monument Botanists and LaMar Orton, President of the Idaho Native Plant Society.

Timetable: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: High clearance recommended

(Fish Creek Canyon).

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 240 miles.

This is a moderately long field trip that will take a full day. However, it will be more than worthwhile if you have never had opportunity to see the unique geography and ecology of the recent lava flows of the Craters of the Moon. The route of the field trip will go from Twin Falls, north and east on US Highway 93 for approximately 120 miles to Craters of the Moon National Monument. We will take several hours to tour the monument and explore the unique botany of the cinder gardens and kipukas. We will have lunch at the monument. On the return trip, we will take a detour into Fish Creek Canyon to view some unusual *Eriogonum* species (we may need James Reveal along



to help us positively identify them) that inhabit the southern slopes of Idaho's central mountains.

#### **Field Trip Preparation**

Most of the field trips take us into places with limited access to food, water, or other essential equipment. If you are driving, be sure to start each field trip with a full tank of gas. Make sure you have a good spare tire. All field trip participants should plan to bring the following:

Sack lunch

Water (at least ½ gallon per person)

Jacket

Wide-brimmed hat

Insect repellent

Good hiking shoes

And remember your camera!

#### **Annual Meeting Schedule**

#### Friday, June 20

10:00 am – Board Meeting, Eriogonum Society – Shield Building, CSI, room TBD

10:00 am - Board Meeting, Idaho Native Plant Society - Shield Building, CSI, room TBD

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - Registration, Shield Building, CSI, room 117

1:00 to 3:00 - pm - Educational classes on *Eriogonum* identification and culture; Shields Building, CSI, rooms 117 and 118.

3:00 to 5:00 pm - Repeat of educational classes, Shields Building, CSI, rooms 117 and 118.

5:30 pm. Welcome reception and dinner at Plantasia Cactus Gardens, 867 Filer Avenue W. Registration to continue.

#### Saturday, June 21

Field trips depart from a parking lot located at the NE corner of the CSI campus near the Herrett Center (see map above).

7:30 am – Depart on the tour to Bennett Hills/Gooding City of Rocks

8:00 am - Depart on the tour to the South Hills

5:30 pm – Social gathering at Canyon Crest Conference Center (see registration packet for map)

6:00 pm - Banquet, annual business meetings at Canyon Crest Conference Center

#### Sunday, June 22

Field trips depart from a parking lot located at the NE corner of the CSI campus near the Herrett Center (see map above).

7:30 am – Depart on the tour to Bennett Hills/Gooding City of Rocks

8:00 am – Depart on the tour to the South Hills

7:00 pm – Informal, <u>no-meal</u> social at Dierkes Lake (see registration packet for directions)

#### Monday, June 23

Field trip departs from a parking lot located at the NE corner of the CSI campus near the Herrett Center (see map above).

7:00 am – Depart for the post-meeting tour to Craters of the Moon/Fish Creek Canyon. Scheduled return time 5 pm

#### Registration

To register for the meeting, fill out and return the registration form below, including a check or money order and mailed to the address on the form <u>OR</u> log onto the Eriogonum website (<a href="http://www.eriogonum.org/">http://www.eriogonum.org/</a>,) click on the Annual Meetings tab, and follow the instructions to register and pay using a credit/debit card.

Note: You must be a member of the Eriogonum Society or the Idaho Native Plant Society to attend the joint annual meeting. If you not a member of one of the societies and wish to attend, please fill out and submit the registration form, then go online to your society of choice and complete a membership application. Web site addresses: ES: http://www.eriogonum.org/; INPS: www.idahonativeplants.org.

### REGISTRATION FORM

## 2014 Eriogonum Society/INPS Annual Meeting

Name					
Accompanying person nam	e(s) (if applicable)				
Street Address					
City	State	Zip	Email		
Phone	Emergency Contact N	fame (Phone)			
Special Food or Health Nee	eds				
Registration Fees				# People	\$ Total
Registration Fee—\$95	5 (Includes all meeting events,	Friday & Saturday	y evening meals)		
				Total Fees	
I am a member of: Eriogo	num Society INPS	S Bo	oth Societies		
Field Trip Preferences (Ple	ase check one for each day)	Saturday	Sunday		
Bennett Hills/Goo	oding City of Rocks				
South Hills					
Check here if you	plan to participate in the Mond	lay field trip to Ci	raters of the Moon		
Note: You must be a meml	ber of the Eriogonum Society o	or the Idaho Nativ	e Plant Society to a	ttend the joint a	nnual
Note: You must be a member of the Eriogonum Society or the Idaho Native Plant Society to attend the joint annual meeting. If you are not a member of one of these societies and wish to attend, please fill out and submit this meeting					
registration, form, then go online to your society of choice and complete a membership application. Society web sites:					
ES: http://www.eriogor	num.org or INPS: www.ida	ahonativeplants.	org		



Total \$ Remitted\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

#### **Eriogonum Society**

Mail payment and registration to: Sue Braastad 1610 Blue Camas Court Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Registration and payment can also be completed online. Go online to the Eriogonum Society website (<a href="http://www.eriogonum.org/">http://www.eriogonum.org/</a>), click on the annual meetings tab and follow registration instructions.

#### Newly proposed varieties of *Eriogonum* found on Society field trips<sup>1</sup>

James L. Reveal L.H. Bailey Hortorium Department of Plant Biology Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4301 e-mail: jlr326@cornell.edu

One of the benefits of attending the annual Eriogonum Society Meetings is the opportunity to look for unusual wild buckwheats. The last two gatherings, one to Steens Mountain area of Oregon in 2012, and the second to the Farmington area of northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico, resulted in the discovery of two new varieties of *Eriogonum*, and an opportunity to study a third. All three were just described by Reveal and Clifford (2014) and Reveal and Mansfield (2014).

Our host in Oregon, Don Mansfield, and I, proposed *Eriogonum ovalifolium* Nutt. var. *rubidum* (Gand.) Reveal & Mansfield, the Steens Mountain wild buckwheat, for the low, prostrate to sprawling form of that species we observed on the summit of the mountain. In his *Flora of the Steens Mountain*, Don considered this plant to be var. *nivale* (Canby ex Coville) M.E. Jones while in *Flora of North America* and *Intermountain Flora* I termed it var. *depressum* Blank. During the field trip we both realized that this expression did not fit well into either variety, and, thanks to Society member Gary Monroe, we were able to differentiate the Steens plant from either of those varieties. The plant was originally named *E. rubidum* by the French botanist Michael Gandoger in 1906, and thus we made a new combination.

Upon realizing, in 2012, that the Steens Mountain plant needed to be recognized, we decided to address the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (CRMO) phase of *Eriogonum ovalifolium* long known to be decidedly curious. I mentioned this expression in the *Intermountain Flora* account of *Eriogonum* and Don decided to review the plant in the field anew to see if he, too, also felt it was novel. I had observed the plant in the field for decades, having first studied it in 1964. Over the years I fretted over the distinctiveness of this low elevation expression, and made several trips from the CRMO northward into the nearby mountains where good var. *depressum* was fairly common in hopes of finding intermediate populations. None was ever found. When Don agreed that the CRMO wild buckwheat was worthy as a new taxa, we decided to describe the plant along with the Steens Mountain wild buckwheat.

In describing *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *focarium* Reveal & Mansfield, we knew that we had to have a distinct name for a plant confined to the black volcanic cinder flats and slopes that dominate the CRMO. Our choice was *focarium*, a word derived from the Latin *focarius* meaning "of the oven", and is an allusion to the habitat. The brilliantly white, densely tomentose leaves of var. *focarium* are in marked contrast to the black cinders, a feature not seen in var. *depressum*.

Members of the Society who attended the Farmington gathering in 2013 were impressed by the knowledge of Arnold Clifford. A plant collector par excellence, Arnold is one of the authors of the just published *Flora of the Four Corners Region* (2013), so when he suggested that he thought he knew of an undescribed wild buckwheat, the route of our Saturday field trip was altered to assure that he and I could see his new plant in the field.

At the upper end of Red Valley in Apache County, Arizona, we wandered around the low red hills looking at a prostrate to sprawling subshrub that, outwardly, was markedly different from a large shrubby species we had seen earlier in the day. In Arnold's opinion, this sprawling subshrub was clearly allied to *Eriogonum leptophyllum* (Torr.) Wooton & Standl. because of the similar flowers and leaves. Still, *E. leptophyllum* is a distinct shrub that can be over a meter tall and nearly two meters across and would be difficult to step over. As we walked over Arnold's small subshrub that was no more than 1.5 dm tall and 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Key to the varieties of *Eriogonum ovalifolium* can be found at: <a href="http://www.phytoneuron.net/2014Phytoneuron/01PhytoN-Eriogonumovalifolium.pdf">http://www.phytoneuron.net/2014Phytoneuron/01PhytoN-Eriogonumovalifolium.pdf</a>

dm across, this relationship was not immediately obvious, but when both of us were on our knees, butts in the air and noses near the ground, I had to agree with Arnold's already firmly established opinion that the plant was a new expression of that nearby species. Thus, we decided to name this expression for the location and called it *E. leptophyllum* var. *vallis-rubrum* Reveal & A. Clifford.

The last two Eriogonum Society annual meetings have resulted in new finds, so the challenge is out for members attending the up-coming Idaho meeting: be out there searching for the strange and curious wild buckwheat before the meeting in June. We have a streak of new discoveries to continue.

#### **Literature Cited**

- Heil, K.D., S.L. O'Kane, L.M. Reeves & A. Clifford (eds.), Flora of the four corners region. Vascular plants of the San Juan River drainage: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. *Monogr. Syst. Bot.* 124: i–xv. 1–1098.
- Mansfield, D. H. 2000. Flora of the Steens Mountain. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis.
- Reveal, J.L. 2005. 44a. *Polygonaceae* Jussieu subfam. *Eriogonoideae* Arnott, Encycl. Britannica (ed. 7), 5: 126. 1832 Wild buckwheat subfamily. *Fl. N. Amer.* 5: 218–478.
- Reveal, J.L. 2012. Polygonaceae, the knotweed family, pp. 196–387. *In*: N.H. Holmgren, P.K. Holmgren & J.L. Reveal. 2012. *Intermountain flora. Vascular plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A. VolumeTwo, Part A. Subclasses Magnoliidae–Caryophyllidae*. Bronx, New York: New York Botanical Garden. 731 pp.
- Reveal, J.L. & A. Clifford. 2014. A new variety of *Eriogonum leptophyllum* from eastern Arizona. *Phytoneuron* 2014-4: 1–4.
- Reveal, J.L. & D.J. Mansfield. 2014. Two new varieties of *Eriogonum ovalifolium* from the Intermountain West, USA. *Phytoneuron* 2014-1: 1–8.



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. rubidum; photographer: JL Reveal





 ${\it Eriogonum~ovali folium~var.~focarium,~plant~and~habitat;~photographer:~JL~Reveal}$ 





Eriogonum leptophyllum var. vallis-rubrum, habit and close up; photographer: JL Reveal

#### The Under-Appreciated Buckwheat

#### Stephen L. Love, University of Idaho, Aberdeen, Idaho

There are gardens and then there are gardens. On the one hand is the beautiful, balanced, color-coordinated landscape. On the other hand is my garden, the botanists dream. You know - one of everything - planted wherever it happens to land. Not that there is a complete lack of order; I have four separate beds, one dedicated to buckwheats, one to penstemons, a third to mints and hyssops, and a fourth to anything and everything else. Given that buckwheats are awarded a bed of their own, I probably don't need to elucidate my



Eriogonum bed in the rock garden at my home in Aberdeen, Idaho

opinion of this remarkable genus. But, I will anyway, otherwise, I won't have anything to write about.

The perfect garden plant is long-lived, evergreen, has colorful flowers, expresses a long bloom period, goes light on natural resources, and provides four seasons of interest, even in climates where winter is less than interesting. Fascinatingly, this is the exact description of many species of *Eriogonum*. Those with a more herbaceous habit that limits winter value are still intriguing and often beautiful. Although not all buckwheats make good garden subjects, to a horticulturist, the genus looks like a very deep well with plenty of water.

So, if the genus *Eriogonum* has so much to offer, why don't we see these remarkable plants scattered around our urban landscapes. There is only one reason I can surmise. As a rule, buckwheats are slow growers and very seldom bloom in pots. So, that rules out a prominent place among impulse buyers, making them less valuable to the retail nurseryman. But, there are plenty of educated gardeners who would purchase and use buckwheats if they know their virtues. So, back to the question: Why not more buckwheats? I think the average gardener simply does not know about them. I consider myself to be a slightly above average gardener and, until very recently, I didn't know about them.

My own introduction to buckwheats came shortly after starting a native plant domestication project at the University of Idaho in 2005. In my earliest plant collection forays during which I was looking specifically for plants with horticultural potential, the buckwheats established themselves near the top of my interest list. I found myself intrigued by the beauty and variability among varieties of *Eriogonum umbellatum*, by the yellow pom-poms of *E. brevicaule* and *E. capistratum*, by the universally fabulous forms of *Eriogonum ovalifolium*, and by the rock-hugging habit of *Eriogonum caespitosum*. And that was only the beginning. In the intervening years, my appreciation for the garden traits of *Eriogonum* species has blossomed (pun intended).



Eriogonum compositum var. compositum

Today, species of the genus *Eriogonum* are both a mainstay of my work in native plant domestication, and a focal point in my personal native plant rock garden. Please humor me while I tell you about a few of my preferred species, varieties, and forms.

If you ask me which species of *Erigonum* is my favorite, the answer will likely be different today than it was yesterday, or will be tomorrow. I am writing this article today, so I'll go with the opinion of the moment. The plant I am putting at the top of the list may be a surprise. It is not one of the dainty, dense little bun species that are so decorative in a rock garden. Rather, it is their coarse, lanky

cousin, Eriogonum compositum, the arrowleaf buckwheat. The large heart-shaped leaves, long flower

stems, and umbels of dark yellow flowers typical of many populations of var. *compositum* create an incredible show during the 6 week bloom period. Form takes precedent over color with this species, probably best described by one of my employees this past summer. Stated succinctly, he said, "These look like Dr. Seuss plants."

Eriogonum ovalifolium is a species with many forms and habits. All of them are garden-worthy. The leaves form dense green, gray, or silver mounds. The



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. nivale

flowers emerge early and come in a range of colors from buff to yellow, to pink to dark red. The flowers of this species have a habit of expressing negligible color upon opening, then becoming darker and darker as



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. purpureum

the flowers are pollinated and begin to fade (doesn't sound right to say something becomes darker in color when it fades, unless you realize the word can mean "die away". Oh that English language. In my garden, I have a number of beautiful forms of this species. Among the best are a pink flowering, decumbent form of var. *nivale*, a form of var. *purpureum* with dark red flowers, a miniature mounding form of var. *depressum* with intense red flowers, and

another version of var. depressum with flower stems so

short the poms never get out of the foliage.

If you want variable, the species *Erigonum umbellatum* will be your cup of tea. With over 20 recognized varieties, in this group there is something for everyone. I especially like plants from the var. *ellipticum* that exhibit late blooming dark yellow flowers that fade into shades of orange and red.



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. depressum

Another favorite is the var. porteri which has extremely dwarf habit and light yellow flowers that fade red.

Great garden plants can be found among the best forms of *Eriogonum strictum* var. *proliferum*. No other buckwheat can match the sheer mass of flowers this species can produce. Three year and older plants



Eriogonum ovalifolium var. depressum

will form a massive mound of white or pink during the extended, late bloom period. I especially want to tell you about one more great garden *Eriogonum* before I quit, that being *E. arcuatum* var. *arcuatum*. These plants do not need to flower to put on a show. The fuzzy, silvery leaves form dense and attractive mounds that start out small but after several years can be up to 3 feet across. The bright lemonyellow flowers just add to the intrigue of this plant; pompoms on short stems that hover at the top of the foliage. What a great plant.

So, I am going to end now. But, just to be sure ya'll understand, these few species I have mentioned are just the beginning, not the end. Other species that are doing well in my garden and may be among my favorites tomorrow are: Eriogonum caespitosum, E. shockleyi, E. flavum, E. robustum, E. corymbosum, E. jamesii, E. coloradense, E. pauciflorum, E. brevicaule, E. mancum, E. sphaerocephalum, E. douglassii, E. ochrocephalum, E. heracleoides, E. kingii, E. rosense, E. kennedyi, E. racemosa, E. nudum, E. bicolor, E. lobbii, E. thymoides, E. niveum, E. pyrofolium, E. wrightii........



# ERIOGONUM SOCIETY 2013-2014 SEED EXCHANGE

Dear Eriogonum Society Members,

The 2013-2014 Seed Exchange is currently accepting orders! This year's exchange is offering 58 new and exciting selections, as well as 37 selections from years past. The Seed List and Ordering Instructions can be downloaded on the Eriogonum Society Website. Go to: <a href="www.eriogonum.org">www.eriogonum.org</a>, then to "SeedEx" at the top of that webpage. You will find links to the ordering form and the seed list on the left side of the SeedEx page.

Please be aware that the 2013-2014 ordering procedure is different for Domestic and International members. You can email me at <u>plant man@sbcglobal.net</u> if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ray Fletcher

#### Subject Index, *Eriogonum* Society Newsletters 2009-2013

Boldface numerals indicate volume number, parenthetical numbers indicate issue number, "p1" and "frontispiece" are interchangeable.

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#### Submissions to the newsletter

Do you have a favorite *Eriogonum* you would like to write about and submit to the **Eriogonum Society**Newsletter? Or would you like to write an essay on topic you'd like to share? Do you have corrections to a past newsletter, or have a letter to the editor you'd like published? Please send your article to the newsletter editor, whose email address is below.

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Advisor	James Reveal	jlr326@cornell.edu
*Board Member		

#### **Membership Renewal**

The Eriogonum Society (<a href="www.eriogonum.org/">www.eriogonum.org/</a>) has attracted over 100 people who love Eriogonums and are interested in learning more about them. A number of our members had a great time at our first annual meeting in Reno, the second one in the White Mountains of California, and the third one at the Malheur Field Station, and the most recent one in Farmington, NM, in the Four Corners area. Our dues include qualification to register for our annual meetings, as well as an on-line newsletter, annual seed exchange and access to the members section of our website.

Dues run on a calendar basis, renewed at the first of each year. Dues for all except students are \$10. 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.

You may pay either by check or by PayPal on our website at http://eriogonum.org. Make checks payable to Eriogonum Society. Mail a completed form and check to:

#### **Bob Pennington, Membership**

#### 1409 Agua Fria, Santa Fe, NM 87505-0907

Please update any current info with new phone numbers or e-mail addresses. Thanks for your enthusiastic support of the Society!

Name		
Address		
Phone #	E-Mail	

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