

Registration Information – American Penstemon Society Annual Meeting 2021

Mikel Stevens, 2021 Annual Meeting Arrangements Chair

Stephen Love, 2021 Annual Meeting Arrangements Co-Chair

Note: Lingerin g issues with COVID-19 may still be prevalent during the dates of our planned meeting. In consideration of the health of fellow penstemoniacs, please request vaccination - as soon as the option is available to your demographic group - as part of your preparations for attendance. Additionally, please bring a mask for use during our indoor events. In case you forget, we will have masks available.

Welcome to Bear River Country

Despite COVID-19 concerns, we are planning a “typical” annual meeting for July of 2021, taking advantage of the penstemon habitats in the area surrounding Logan, Utah. Given the progressive status of COVID-19 vaccination efforts, we are reasonably confident that we can successfully plan and conduct this event. However, as with all plans, things could develop in a less than optimal fashion. So, please keep in touch with the arrangements committee and APS Board to receive updates. Regardless, begin your plans to join us in Logan and in the meantime, we will work under the assumption that each of us will feel comfortable returning to our “normal” routine.

The meeting will be centered at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan, Utah (address: 615 Riverwoods Pkwy, Logan, UT), thus allowing us to explore the unique flora of the Bear River Range of northern Utah and southern Idaho. Field trips are scheduled for Tony Grove Lake in the upper Logan Canyon area, Paris Ice Cave and Bloomington Lakes located in Idaho on the west side of Bear Lake, and the Monte Cristo area in the southern end of the Bear River Range. Several species of penstemon are present in this region, including *P.*

leonardii, *P. cyananthus*, *P. humilis*, *P. whippleanus*, and *P. radicosus*. On our regularly scheduled tours we will visit the habitat of the rare species *P. compactus*. On the optional Monday tour, we may also see *P. caespitosus*, *P. cleburnei*, and *P. scariosus* if we can identify accessible sites.



Meeting Dates

The 2021 annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 9 through Sunday, July 11 with an optional post-meeting tour of the Monte Cristo area of northern Utah on Monday, July 12.

The Region

The Bear River Range is the northern extension of the Wasatch Mountains. This range forms the eastern boundary of the Cache Valley, setting of Logan, Utah; and extends north to Soda Springs, Idaho and south to a point east of Ogden, Utah. The range consists of raised and folded karst formations made up of limestone layers resulting from sedimentation in an ancient inland sea. The resultant landforms are pockmarked with limestone caves and fossil beds. The highest point in the range is Mount Naomi at 9,979 feet. At the eastern edge of the range is the Bear River Basin, home of Bear Lake. This beautiful body of water is - sometimes called the Caribbean of the Rockies – exhibits a unique blue color, a result of calcium carbonate deposits.

Weather in this region is cool-temperate with distinct seasonal precipitation patterns. Summer days are typically warm, dry, and sunny ending with cool evenings and nights. Winters are cold and snowy. The Cache Valley around Logan averages 53 inches of snow. In contrast, the Beaver Mountain Ski Resort in Logan Canyon (within the Bear River Range) averages over 400 inches of snow. Interestingly, a site called Peter Sinks within the Range recorded the lowest historical temperature in Utah and second lowest in the contiguous 48 lower state, at -69°F.

The Bear River Range provides many opportunities for recreation, both for local residents and visiting tourists. Popular sites include Tony Grove Lake, Franklin Basin, Beaver Mountain Ski Resort, Bear Lake, Bloomington Lakes, and Minnetonka Cave. Being positioned along the Oregon Trail, the region is also rich in historical sites.

Travel to Logan

Logan can easily be reached via air or ground transport. Although Logan itself does not have airline service, you can fly into Salt Lake City, rent a vehicle and drive to Logan. Salt Lake City is served by most major US airlines.

You can drive to Logan from the north or south on Interstate-15. Take exit 385 north of Tremonton and drive 19 miles east on UT-30. Alternately, from the south, drive 62 miles north on I-15 to Brigham City. Take exit 362 and drive 26 miles through Wellsville Canyon on US-89 to Logan.

From the west drive to Salt Lake City on I-80 then follow the directions for a south arrival described above.

From the east, you can either drive to Salt Lake City on I-80 and then follow directions for a south arrival described above; or take the scenic route by leaving I-80 just west of Little America on exit 66 to US-30. Travel 69 mi and turn left on WY-89 (which turns into UT-30 at the border) and drive 41 miles to Garden City. At the junction with US-89, turn left and travel 39 miles down Logan Canyon into Logan.

Lodging

Please make your own reservations for lodging. Information describing lodging options is detailed below.

The Riverwoods Conference Center (615 Riverwoods Pkwy, Logan, UT) will be the base facility for the 2021 APS meeting. All business meetings, banquets, and presentations associated with the meeting will be held at this facility. Room rates at the conference center (connected with the Marriott TownePlace Suites hotel) are \$169 per night for single or double occupancy. A competitive group rate has been arranged given all that will be happening that weekend in the Cache Valley (we will be competing for

space with participants in a major bicycle road race). The Marriott TownePlace is a brand-new hotel and just opened for business the last weekend of February 2021. The facility is now taking reservations.

Web link to the American Penstemon Society reservation page for TownePlace Suites: [Book your group rate for American Penstemon Society](#).

Alternately: to type this URL into your browser: tinyurl.com/35uy5rzv

Rooms will be held at the group rate until June 6, 2021, or until all of our block rooms are reserved. It is critical that you book your reservation early to any and all facilities in Cache Valley (Logan area because the "UCI Gran Fondo World Championship Qualifier" will be held July 9th & 10th in Cache Valley, Utah. We have been informed that this event expected to be well-attended and late booking for lodging may be impossible.

Alternate nearby motels:

Super 8 by Wyndham, 865 S Main St, Logan, UT, 435-363-0050

La Quinta Inn & Suites, 853 US-89, Logan, UT, 435-752-0707

Best Western Baugh Motel, 153 South Main Logan, Utah, 435-752-5220

RV Parks

There are two RV parks located near the conference center:

Traveland RV Park, 2020 S. Hwy #89, Logan, UT, 435-787-2020

Riverside RV Park, 447 W 1700 S, Logan, UT, 435-757-2346

Nearby campgrounds (for those with a preference for roughing it):

Bridger Campground, 5.5 miles east of Logan near US-89 (non-reservable).

Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/uwcnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=9082&actid=29>

Guinavah-Malibu Campground, 7.6 miles east of Logan near US-89 (reservable).

Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/uwcnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=9323&actid=29>

Wood Camp Campground, 13 miles east of Logan near US-89 (non-reservable).

Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/uwcnf/recreation/recarea/?recid=9835&actid=29>

Meals

Cost for meals associated with the Friday reception and the Saturday evening banquet are included in the registration fee. All other meal arrangements are the responsibility of attendees. Pack a lunch and carry it with you on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday field trips. Most field trips involve travel into somewhat isolated areas (high clearance vehicles recommended, but not essential). It is critical that you begin each field trip with enough food and water for an all-day excursion.

Welcome Reception

On Friday afternoon, beginning at 5 pm, we will host a welcome reception at the Riverwoods Conference Center (615 Riverwoods Pkwy). Food and beverages will be provided. As part of the reception, we have invited Leila Shultz to provide a presentation on a topic entitled, "What's so special about Logan Canyon?" Leila will discuss geological features and plant distributions that are unique in the region. Primary focus will be on the dozen+ endemic plant species found in the Bear River Range (northern Wasatch). Among others, this area harbors the rare *Penstemon compactus* and *Orthocarpus holmgreniorum*.



Biography for Leila Shultz.

Leila came to Utah in 1973, starting a career of field exploration, curation, teaching, and research. She obtained degrees from the University of Tulsa (B.S.), University of Colorado (M.A.), and Claremont Graduate School (Ph.D.). She is a co-author of the Atlas of Vascular Plants of Utah and the Woody Plants of Utah, and a taxon editor for the Flora of North America for 25 years. Additionally, Leila served as curator of the Intermountain Herbarium for 20 years and on the Board of Directors for the Utah Native Plant Society and the Teton Science Schools. "I completed a monograph of Artemisia subgenus Tridentatae (Sagebrush) in 2009 and have since distributed about 30,000 copies of a Pocket Guide to Sagebrush. My retirement home is with the Intermountain Herbarium at Utah State University and my heart is with the conservation of the rare flora of Utah."

Banquet

The annual meeting banquet and business meeting will be held at the Riverwoods Conference Center on Saturday evening. A reception will start at 6 pm with the meal served at 7 pm. Following the meal, we will conduct a short business meeting and then be treated to a keynote speech by Tony McCammon, co-author of *The Heart of Penstemon Country: A Natural History of Penstemons in the Utah Region*. Since completing graduate work at Utah State, Tony has been fascinated by and a self-educated forager of native plants. His love of nature connects him to the Native American way of life and "our brothers and sisters in the plant kingdom. Penstemon enthusiasts love to admire specimens in their native environment. Some take pictures, others propagate them into their own yards. I have even seen some add them to their own peyote mixture. Native American Tribes of the Intermountain West were familiar with Penstemon as a beautiful and useful plant. And although it is the king of the wildflowers, packed inside every plant is a history, a life, and even a power forgotten." At this year's APS meeting Tony will share an ethnobotanical history of Penstemon.

Biography for Tony McCammon:

Tony McCammon is the founder of Bloom Horticulture Specialists, the leader in inspiring landscape stewardship and helping gardeners connect to nature's healing power. His



passion for plants carries into his landscape architecture studio, speaking engagements, and consulting opportunities. Tony has worked in the horticultural field for over 15 years. He received a MS in Plant Science from Utah State University and retired from the University of Idaho to start his business. Tony has specialized expertise in woody plants, turfgrass, native plants, permaculture, floraculture, aquaponics, and pest management. He has spoken to many groups nationwide and has appeared on several garden shows. Tony loves hiking, canyoneering, playing soccer with his friends, and relishes writing in the third person. He is a featured speaker on greatgardenspeakers.com, The Association for Garden Communicators, Idaho and Utah Nursery

and Landscape Association, local/state/and international Native Plant Associations, and frequently offers community classes through Dixie State University.

Field Trips

We will provide multiple options for field trips on both Saturday and Sunday to meet the needs and capabilities of all attendees. You may also choose to attend the post-meeting, half-day tour of the Monte Cristo area southeast of Logan.

All Saturday, Sunday, and Monday field trips will leave from the parking lot of the Riverwoods Conference Center. We encourage you to carpool to minimize the number of vehicles required for transport.

Saturday Tours

Tony Grove Lake/Naomi Peak

All meeting attendees will drive up Logan Canyon to Tony Grove Lake. (The required day-use parking pass will be covered as part of your registration fee.) At the parking lot, we will split into three groups. For the adventurous, we will lead a climb to Mount Naomi, the highest peak in the Bear River Range.



The hike is 12.4 miles round trip with a 2,000 feet elevation gain. Difficulty is moderate. If you choose this option, please be sure to bring the proper shoes and equipment (plus plenty of water).

A second option at Tony Grove Lake is a short 2-mile hike round trip to a *Penstemon compactus* site. Afterward, this group will explore the ravines and cliffs on the way back to Tony Grove Lake

A third option at Tony Grove Lake is to walk the nature trail on the lake shore and explore some of the easily accessed areas around the lake.

Timetable: 8 am to 3 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: no restrictions.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 40 miles.

Tony Grove Lake is positioned at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. Habitat is alpine fir and limber pine forest. A number of penstemon species can be seen on this tour, including *P. cyananthus*, *P. humilis*, *P. leonardii*, *P. whippleanus*, and *P. compactus*. Many other unique and/or locally endemic species may also be seen, such as *Epilobium canum*, *Polemonium occidentale*, and *Balsamorhiza macrophylla*.

Sunday Tours

You can choose one of two tours on Sunday. One option is Bloomington Lake to the west of Bear Lake. The other is to Paris Ice Cave, also on the west side of Bear Lake.

Bloomington Lake

This field trip involves an 85 mile drive up Logan Canyon and into the portion of the Bear River Range west of Bear Lake. At Bloomington, Idaho, we will turn west off US-89 and drive to the Bloomington Lake trailhead. This field trip will include a 1.5-mile round trip hike into Bloomington Lake. This hike is rated easy. On the drive to this site, we may include some other stops to sample other habitats. During this trip we may be able to see *P.*

leonardii, *P. cyananthus*, *P. whippleanus*, *P. humilis*, and *P. radicosus*. Other interesting plants close to the lake include the rare *Musineon cusickii* and *Asplenium viride*. This is also one of the few places in Idaho with established populations of *Primula parryi*.

Timetable: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: trailhead access road is dirt/gravel and somewhat rocky in places; vehicles with moderate clearance, including most sedans should be able to handle this road.

Roundtrip Drive: 170 miles.



Paris Ice Cave

This field trip involves an 81 mile drive up Logan Canyon and into the portion of the Bear River Range west of Bear Lake. At Paris, Idaho, we will turn west off US-89 and drive up Paris Canyon to the Paris Ice Cave. This field trip may include some easy to moderate hiking. On the drive to this site, we may include



stops to sample other habitats. On this trip we may be able to see *P. leonardii*, *P. cyananthus*, *P. humilis*, and *P. radicosus*.

Timetable: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: the cave access road is gravel and well-maintained; most vehicles should be able to handle this road.

Roundtrip Drive: 162 miles

Monday Post-Meeting Tour

Monte Cristo

Timetable: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: high clearance to see *P. compactus*.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 270 miles.



This is a part-day field trip within which we will travel south of Logan through Hyrum, Eden, and Huntington, then east into the Monte Cristo Range. The one-way drive is approximately 70 miles. There we will explore meadows and forests at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. On this trip we should see abundant wildflowers that may include *P. compactus*, *P. cyananthus*, *P. leonardii*, and *P. scariosus*. We have observed herbarium records suggesting that *P. caespitosus* and *P. cleburnei* have been found at lower elevations near Woodruff, Utah. Additional scouting activities prior to the conference may reveal sites for those species.

Field Trip Preparation

Most 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, please 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

2:00 pm – Board Meeting (Riverwoods Conference Center).

5:00 pm – Welcome reception (Riverwoods Conference Center).

Saturday

Departure for this field trip originates from the Riverwoods Conference Center parking lot.

8:00 am – Depart on the tour to Tony Grove Lake.

6:00 pm – Reception (Riverwoods Conference Center).

7:00 pm – Banquet, annual business meeting, keynote speech (Riverwoods Conference Center).

Sunday

Departure originates from the Riverwoods Conference Center Parking lot.

8:00 am – Depart on the tour to Bloomington Lake.

8:30 am – Depart on the tour to Paris Ice Cave.

Monday

Departure originates from the Riverwoods Conference Center parking lot.

8:00 am – Depart for the post-meeting tour to Monte Cristo.

We will adjourn from the field after the tour is complete.

Registration

To register for the meeting, fill out the online registration form and make payment through the APS website (<http://www.penstemons.org/>). To access the registration form, click on the Meetings tab, and follow the instructions to pay using a credit/debit card. Alternately, download and print the registration form, fill in the appropriate information, and send the form along with a check for registration fees to:

Lupita Wessler
2841 NE Shepard Road
Bend, OR 97701-5825

Note: You must be a member of the American Penstemon Society to attend the joint annual meeting. If you not a member and wish to attend, please fill out and submit the online registration form on the

American Penstemon Society web page: <http://www.penstemons.org/>.