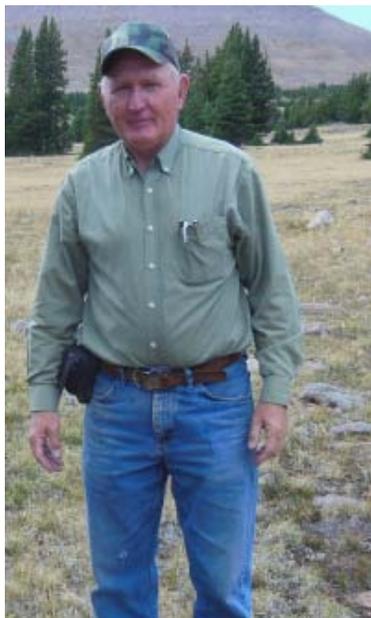


Field Trip Leaders for American Penstemon Society/Utah Native Plant Society Annual Meeting, Vernal, Utah, June 2017

Sherel Goodrich



Sherel has spent most of his life in the Uinta Basin. In his early years, he lived in Tridell, Utah, where he worked in the family's timber business. His early college years were spent at the College of Southern Utah in Cedar City and at Utah State University in Logan. During the summers and following graduation, he worked for the Ashley National Forest in Dutch John and Vernal. In 1976, Sherel began working full time for the Forest Service in Duchesne, Utah, and on the Toiyabe National Forest in central Nevada. Soon thereafter, he went back to school, this time to Brigham Young University, where he completed his M.S. degree in 1981. In 1984, he returned to Vernal, working for the Forest Service and continuing active plant collecting in the Uinta Mountains. He and co-author Elizabeth Neese published *Uinta Basin Flora* in 1986. Included are 30 species and nine varieties of *Penstemon*. In 2014, Sherel and Allen Huber, another of our field trip leaders, published *Uinta Flora*, which includes 33 species of *Penstemon*. Sherel, now retired from the Forest Service, does long-term monitoring and also serves as a lab instructor at Utah State University, Uintah Basin. He has made more than 29,000 plant collections, more than 20 of which serve as type specimens. New species and varieties named in his honor include: *Aquilegia scopulorum* var. *goodrichii* S. L. Welsh; *Arabis goodrichii* S. L. Welsh; *Cleomella palmeriana* var. *goodrichii* S. L. Welsh; *Cymopterus goodrichii* S. L. Welsh & Neese; *Erigeron goodrichii* S. L. Welsh; *Ipomopsis congesta* var. *goodrichii* S. L. Welsh; *Lesquerella goodrichii* Rollins; *Mentzelia goodrichii* K. H. Thorne & S. L. Welsh; *Penstemon goodrichii* N. H. Holmgren; and *Townsendia goodrichii* S. L. Welsh & N. D. Atwood. Sherel will be our Friday night banquet speaker, presenting "Uinta Basin Endemics."

Robert Johnson



Robert Johnson was born in Delta, Utah, and grew up as a teenager in American Fork, Utah. He got a B.S. and M.S. degree in Botany and Plant Ecology at Brigham Young University. After graduation, he worked as a plant ecologist for the Department of Defense at Dugway Proving Ground for nearly 10 years, followed by several years working as a Research Scientist at Brigham Young University. During this

time he finished a Doctoral degree in Restoration Ecology and then took a job working for the Southern Nevada Water Authority managing a Nature Preserve in Warm Springs, Moapa, Nevada. He then moved back to Utah where currently he is a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Brigham Young University with a primary responsibility as the Collections Manager for the Stanley L. Welsh Herbarium, Monte L. Bean Museum. Robert's first awareness of *Penstemon* began at age 15 when he monitored the progress of a newly planted 'Husker Red' *Penstemon*. "I didn't find the flowers terribly overwhelming," he says, "but it was the first time I saw an unusual type of bumble bee that exclusively visited that *Penstemon* every day and every year thereafter." The "search image" for *Penstemon* was forever fixed. In addition to his love for plants, he also has a fondness for insects, poultry, history, and sugar. Robert and Mike Stevens recently named *Penstemon luculentus* R. L. Johnson & M. R. Stevens, a replacement name for *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens*, from Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties, Colorado. In addition to being one of our field trip leaders, Robert will be our Saturday night banquet speaker, presenting "Relating to Native Plants in Wildscapes and Landscapes: Rhymes and Reasons."

Lisa Boyd



Lisa was raised in the Uinta Basin and grew up enjoying the multitude of outdoor activities in the area. She has always loved nature and wildlife, so when the opportunity arose, she attended Utah State University and earned a B.S. degree in Wildlife Science, and an M.S. degree in Natural Resources. She had been working with The Nature Conservancy for two years preparing a plan and monitoring the beautiful Flowers Penstemon. She currently works for the Bureau of Land Management as a Natural

Resource Specialist. She is passionate about habitat restoration and hopes to make this her career.

Bill Gray



Bill grew up in England where he was trained in the physical sciences, gaining his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at Cambridge. Earlier, his high school counsellors had told him to ignore botany and zoology, as "they can be learned any time"! It took him nearly 50 years before putting their advice to the test. As a faculty member in Biology at the University of Utah (still doing biochemistry) Bill became fascinated by all aspects of traditional biology. On retiring 20 years ago

he decided to learn about the plants he had encountered while hiking around the Intermountain West. It has taken longer than expected, but he is still hard at work: fortunately there is no end in sight. Along the way he has developed portable databases, including one for Penstemons (based on the APS book by Dale Lindgren and Ellen Wilde), and one for plants of the Central Wasatch Front (based on the book by Lois Arnow et al.). He is a past president of the Utah Native Plant Society, and has led numerous botanical field trips in several parts of the State. Right now (flowerless January) he is working through his 20,000 plant photos to make them freely available for educational use.

Allen Huber



Allen has spent most of his life in the Uinta Basin. He currently lives in Lapoint, Utah, where he helps run the family farm. Allen graduated from Uintah High School in 1981 and earned a B.A. degree in history, with a minor in political science, from Brigham Young University in 1991. During his time at BYU, he assisted Dr. Howard Stutz in his study of *Atriplex*. Following that, Allen worked as a seasonal range technician for the Ashley National Forest with Sherel Goodrich. In 1995, Allen completed his study of limestone substrates in the Uinta Mountains and was hired as a rangeland management specialist in the Ashley National Forest in 1995. He was promoted to ecologist in 2003. He is co-author (with Sherel Goodrich) of *Uinta Flora*, published in 2014. Allen and Sherel Goodrich received one of the 2016 Regional Forester Awards for Sustaining Forests and Grasslands. The award was presented to them for maintaining and interpreting extensive forest and range monitoring data across the Ashley National Forest that allows decision makers the ability to make confident, informed decisions. Two plant species have been named in Allen's honor: *Erigeron huberi* S. L. Welsh & N. D. Atwood and *Lepidium huberi* S. L. Welsh & Goodrich. Allen's collections have served as type specimens for several species new to science.

Matt Lewis

Matt grew up in Ogden, Utah. After attending Weber State University for two years, he moved to Logan, Utah where he completed a B.S. degree in Conservation and Restoration Ecology in 2009 from Utah State University. He moved straight into graduate work, also at Utah State, to study the pollination ecology and the effects of road dust on reproduction of shrubby reed-mustard (*Hesperidanthus suffrutescens*), an endangered Uinta Basin endemic. After completing an M.S. degree in Ecology in 2013, he worked for SWCA Environmental Consultants, conducting surveys for many of the Uinta Basin's rare and endemic plants, including Graham penstemon (*Penstemon grahamii*) and White River Penstemon (*Penstemon scariosus* var. *albifluvis*). While there, he helped write the 2014 Penstemon Conservation Agreement. Currently, he works for the Vernal Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, where he has written long-term monitoring plans for shrubby reed-mustard, Graham penstemon, and White River penstemon. His research interests include the pollination ecology of rare and endemic plants, the conservation of native bees and their habitat, the restoration of degraded desert systems, and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for ecological monitoring and surveys of rare plants.



Wayne Padgett



Wayne came to Utah in 1984 by way of California, Oregon, and Wyoming. He took his first botany class in California in 1973 and was planning on getting a bachelor's degree in botany, until he was faced with the 1968 edition of Munz' A California Flora with Supplement. He just wasn't strong enough to face that fine-print, 1681-page, volume (plus 224-page supplement) with any confidence, and ended up with a degree in Biological Science from the University of California, Davis in 1975. After working two years as a Research Staff Associate for UC, Davis at their agriculture field station in the Imperial Valley of southern California studying the effects of increased salinity of Colorado River water on a variety of crops, Wayne decided it was time to move on. He got his M.S. degree in rangeland ecology at

Oregon State University in 1981 where his research was focused on developing one of the first riparian plant community classifications in the West. He applied that experience and degree to developing riparian classifications for Nevada, Utah, eastern Idaho, and western Wyoming when he began his career with the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service in 1984. It was during this period that Wayne began his plant collections in earnest. In 1991, Wayne took the position of ecologist on the Wasatch-Cache (now Uinta-Wasatch-Cache) National Forest where his responsibilities included botany as well as ecology. In 2006, he took the position of the national vegetation ecologist for the forest service in Washington, DC, before ending his career back in Utah as the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Materials Development Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management. Wayne's plant collections from early in his career have helped support the development of various volumes of the Intermountain Flora. Since retirement in 2013, he has been attempting to photograph every vascular plant species known to occur in the Wasatch Mountains and the Bear River Range of northern Utah and southeastern Utah. While he still has a long way to go, he is hoping to develop a searchable webpage of those images he has as soon as he can find someone with the technical skills to make it happen.

Leila Shultz

Leila came to Utah in 1973 after studying biology at University of Tulsa (B.S.) and University of Colorado (M.A.). She earned her Ph.D. in botany at Claremont Graduate School in 1983. She grew up in Oklahoma but most of her professional career – except for a brief stint at Harvard – has been at Utah State University: first as Assistant Curator of the Intermountain Herbarium, then Curator, then research faculty in the College of Natural Resources. She currently serves as a Professor Emeritus in Wildland Resources. She has collected extensively throughout the Intermountain region with the goal of studying rare plants, conducting biodiversity inventories, and developing the *Digital Atlas of Utah Plants*. Her work in the Uinta Basin in the late 1970s involved a study of the Willow Creek/White River drainage south of Vernal in the time before development of oil shale and many roads – seeing robust populations of *Penstemon grahamii* as well as the White River Penstemon. She is a founding member of the editorial board for *Flora of North America* and is a co-author of *Woody Plants of Utah*. She is well known as a charismatic leader of botanical field trips in northern Utah. She teaches a course in the Moab area in field botany for Utah State University and has been an instructor at the Teton Science School in western Wyoming. Leila has named several new species, including two penstemons, *Penstemon ammophilus* (with Noel Holmgren) and *P. pinorum* (with John Shultz). *Mentzelia shultziorum* from Grand County, Utah, and *Astragalus shultziorum* from western Wyoming, have been named in honor of Leila and John Shultz.



Jim Spencer



Jim was born in Provo, Utah, but grew up in the small town of Colonia Dublan, a suburb of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, in northern Mexico. As might be guessed, he is fluent in Spanish. He received a B.S. degree from Brigham Young University in Wildlife Biology/Conservation Biology and a M.S. degree in 2000 from BYU in Plant Taxonomy. His thesis was “A Floristic Study of the Sierra Madre Occidental in the Northern Mexico State of Chihuahua,” with Duane Atwood as major advisor. Jim has been employed for about 15 years as a Wildlife Biologist/Botanist for

USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) in Roosevelt, Utah, where his main duty at the moment is performing Wetland Determinations for Food Security Act compliance. He is also the NRCS representative on the Regional Panel for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Arid West Region, which created and updates the “National Wetland Plant List” used for completing wetland delineations. Jim was part of the NRCS range inventory of Dinosaur Natural Monument. He has been interested in plants and animals for as long as he can remember. He loves to fish, being outdoors, and knowing the rare plants of Utah, especially those in the Uinta Basin.

Mikel Stevens



Mike was born in Brigham City, Utah, where he spent the first 18 years of his life. In those early years, he worked in his family-owned greenhouse business. He had two formative influences on his career. He idolized his grandfather, who owned the greenhouse, and a favorite uncle, who had a deep and abiding love of plant and animal life and the outdoors. His uncle pushed Mike toward his profession by first tutoring him and then passing him on the requirements for a Nature Merit Badge in the Boy Scouts. He insisted that Mike know the common names of native plants of northern Utah. This training prepared Mike for the sought-after positions as Nature Staff at two Boy Scout summer camps, which, as a teen-ager, Mike thought was “heaven on earth.” During two of the four summers at camp, his “room” was a tent for the entire summer!

Mike earned his A.S. degree from Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, and his B.S. and M.S.

degrees from Brigham Young University. At the age of 35, with support from his family of four children and his wife, JoLynn, he returned to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas. It took him five years because he was working fulltime for the University and could take classes only on off-hours. His degrees have all been in the plant sciences. His early work was in plant breeding, which involved identifying and breeding for natural resistance to a viral disease in tomatoes. The resistance gene identified by him almost 30 years ago is still used around the world. For the past 10 years, Mike has been developing drought-tolerant, disease-resistant *Penstemon* cultivars, especially those that can withstand the Intermountain West soils and winters. Although there are many beautiful penstemons in the market place, none of the more-developed cultivars can tolerate the conditions of the urban landscapes in the Intermountain West. In addition to his plant breeding program, Mike is currently studying relationships within the *P. scariosus* complex (centered in the Uinta Basin area) and within the *P. cyaneus* (big blue) complex in south-central Idaho. Mike and Stephen Love are currently writing a book on the Natural History of the *Penstemon* of Utah. As all *Penstemon*-lovers know, Utah is the center of diversity for the genus, with more than 70 species in the state. Mike and Steve's book, which is nearing completion, will be a major and welcome addition to our knowledge of the genus.