Meet The Newest Species:  
*Penstemon luculentus*

Robert Johnson and I have been trying to understand the relationships between the penstemons in northeastern Utah and the adjacent borders of Colorado and Wyoming. In doing this project we stumbled onto an interesting taxon that needed to be better understood (see next two pages). One of the results of this study was the naming of a new species, *Penstemon luculentus* described in the following introduction to the paper.  
— Mikel Stevens

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Above and top photo: *P. luculentus*  
(Mikel Stevens; pg 50 Robert L. Johnson et al. / PhytoKeys 63: 47–62 (2016)
Molecular and morphological evidence for Penstemon luculentus (Plantaginaceae): a replacement name for Penstemon fremontii var. glabrescens

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Abstract

Penstemon luculentus R.L. Johnson & M.R. Stevens, nom. nov. replaces Penstemon fremontii var. glabrescens Dorn & Lichvar. The varietal name glabrescens was not elevated because it was already occupied by Penstemon glabrescens Pennell, a different species. This new arrangement is supported by molecular and morphological evidence. An analysis of genetic diversity in populations of both varieties of P. fremontii from the Piceance Basin, Colorado, using SSR (simple sequences repeats) or microsatellites markers, revealed significant genetic differentiation between the two. Penstemon fremontii var. glabrescens was also genetically different from P. gibbensii Dorn and P. scariosus var. garrettii (Pennell) N.H. Holmgren. The combination of hirtellous stems, glabrous leaves, non-glandular inflorescence, and long anther hairs distinguish P. luculentus from other morphologically similar species.

Keywords

Colorado, Rio Blanco, Piceance, White River Shale, Penstemon


**Introduction**

While investigating *Penstemon scariosus* Pennell (1920) and its varieties, the authors encountered two herbarium specimens from Rio Blanco County, Colorado (BRY81341, BRY81345) that had hirtellous stems, a trait not found in *P. scariosus*. Further investigation led us to determine that the specimens had been misidentified and that they correctly belonged to *Penstemon fremontii* var. *glabrescens* Dorn and Lichvar (1990) under existing taxonomic circumscription. Similarly, we encountered several herbarium specimens labeled as *P. gibbensii* Dorn (1982) from Rio Blanco County, Colorado (BRY112313, BRY112314, BRY112315, BRY112316) that also belonged to *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens*. All but one of these specimens was collected prior to the publication of *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens* and they had not been annotated since to reflect this newer taxonomy. The original determinations of these specimens reflect the observed similarity of *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens* to *P. scariosus* and *P. gibbensii*, rather than with *P. fremontii* Torr. & A. Gray in Gray (1862) *sensu stricto*.

Though var. *glabrescens* was recognized at the varietal level within *P. fremontii*, uncertainty as to its placement within this taxon has been expressed. In the most recent treatment of the Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Weber and Wittmann (2012) state, “In our opinion, this variety is not closely related to *P. fremontii* and it might be better placed, as a species, closer to the peripheral *P. scariosus* and *P. gibbensii*.” The similarity of var. *glabrescens* to *P. gibbensii* and *P. scariosus* was also mentioned in its original publication and morphological comparisons made with these taxa (Dorn and Lichvar 1990), although there was no indication with which of the four varieties of *P. scariosus* those comparisons were made.

*Penstemon gibbensii* can be easily distinguished from *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens* by the abundant glandular pubescence present on the inflorescence axis (including sepals and corolla) and distal portions of the stem as compared to the later. The glandular hairs often extend from the distal stem region to mid-stem or below, though becoming less dense proximally. *Penstemon scariosus* only occasionally has glandular hairs (in some varieties) with hairs sparse and never extending onto the proximal portion of the stem. Variety *glabrescens* is most easily distinguished from *P. fremontii* *sensu stricto* by its glabrous leaves and longer-haired anthers versus *P. fremontii* that has hirtellous leaves and shorter anther hairs. Variety *glabrescens* is most easily distinguished from *P. scariosus* by its hirtellous stem, *P. scariosus* having glabrous stems.

In this paper, we re-evaluate some morphological characteristics between *P. fremontii* and *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens*. We also make comparisons against *P. scariosus* var. *garrettii* (Pennell 1920) N.H. Holmgren in Cronquist et al. (1984) because it represents a variety of *P. scariosus* that is geographically proximate and of similar floral characteristics. We also compare the genetic structure within and between *P. fremontii* varieties *fremontii* and *glabrescens*, *P. gibbensii*, and *P. scariosus* var. *garrettii* from the same region using simple sequence repeat (SSR; i.e., microsatellite markers). These markers are useful in inferring genetic exchange among biological populations (Baloux and Lugon-Moulin 2002). It is our opinion that *P. fremontii* var. *glabrescens* is a distinct taxon and should be elevated as a unique species.
The Calypso Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society invites you to spend the weekend in southwest Montana’s valley and mountain landscapes at the peak of native plant flowering and long summer days. Field trips will explore mountain meadows, rocky canyons, exposed mountain slopes, and restored riparian environments. Fairmont Hot Springs, with three pools, extensive grounds, and a gorgeous rural setting is perfect for families. **We will use the Cutthroat and Meadowlark Rooms on the north side of the complex, including the Outdoor Pavilion. Plan to park there – follow conference signs around to Shirley Way and turn in.**

**Registration**
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort is located 12 miles west of Butte on I-90. Take Exit 211, head west 4 miles, follow conference signs around to Shirley Way.

**Conference Registration:** Friday, Noon till 8:00 PM in the meeting rooms.
**Hotel Registration:** On the south side of the building.

**Lodging**
Lodging for the conference is based at Fairmont Hot Springs. **Attendees must make their own room reservations** by calling 406-797-3241, or online at [www.fairmontmontana.com](http://www.fairmontmontana.com). Ask for (or choose) “Book Now”, then choose “Groups”; our GROUP ID = 14384, PASSWORD = 37003400. Fairmont has a strict “no pets” policy. **Fairmont block-room registration closes June 15, 2016.**

Additionally, there are many nearby area motels in Anaconda, Deer Lodge and Butte.

**RV and Camping Options – For fees and reservations, call or see web sites. No dogs, no firearms**

- **Fairmont RV Park** (walking distance from Fairmont H. S. but not affiliated). Includes restroom/showers, gas/diesel, dump/water stations. RV sites (133), Cabins (3), Teepees (3), Tent spaces (13). Information: [www.fairmontrvresort.com](http://www.fairmontrvresort.com); 406-797-3505.
- **Lost Creek State Park** (approx. 12 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). For user fees and reservations: [www.stateparks.mt.gov/lost-creek](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov/lost-creek).
- **2 Bar Lazy H RV Park – Rocker** (12 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). Off exit 122 at Rocker on I-90, 2 miles west of Butte. Information: [www.2barlazyhrv.com](http://www.2barlazyhrv.com); 406-782-5464.
- **Butte KOA** (15 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). Information: [www.koa.com/campgrounds.butte](http://www.koa.com/campgrounds.butte); 406-782-8080, or 800/562-8089.

**Primitive Camping:** Hard Shell Campers and Tents. Dispersed camping is available on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Check with Forest Supervisor’s Office at 406-683-3900 (Dillon); or Butte Ranger District at 406-494-2147, or Calypso Chapter member Kelly Upright at 406-723-4416, whereskellyupright@yahoo.com.

**Meals and Social Hour – please, no “BYOB”**
All prepaid meals will be in the meeting rooms – you will need to show your registration badge. Preordered sack lunches for Saturday +/or Sunday (on registration form) can be picked up the morning of the trip. The Social Hour, open to all, will be in the Pavilion, 5:00-6:00 PM Friday.

**Friday Workshops: 3:00-4:30 PM in the Pavilion**
1. **Native Seed Propagation**, offered by Bryce Christaens of Native Ideals Seed Farm
2. **Grass ID**, offered by RT Hawke. Bring a hand lens if possible.
**Friday Excursion.** Karen Brower invites those interested to tour her gardens between 10:00 AM and Noon on Friday before the conference. Karen has extensive native and “same niche” plant species including many penstemons. She lives east of Butte, east side of Homestake Pass on I-90; use Pipestone Exit. Call to attend: 406-490-8872.

**Field Trips**
Trips will go to classic and new locales. **Saturday trips will run 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM** to allow time for family fun at Fairmont. ALL TRIPS DEPART FROM AND RETURN TO PARKING AREA BESIDE PAVILION ON SHIRLEY WAY, NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING COMPLEX. **Sunday trips will depart at 9:00 AM** to start you homeward. Be sure to have a LUNCH, plenty of water, appropriate footwear and clothing for changeable mountain/prairie weather, sun hat, sun screen, dark glasses, camera, binoculars, hand lens. Camera buffs will be able to pool their pics for the evening Trip Photo Review.

**Saturday Field Trips**
- **Vipond Park.** Leaders Jessie Salix/Catherine Cain. A driving and walking trip to a spectacular subalpine meadow. Green Gentian will be abundant. Easy. No limit
- **Highland Mountains Foothills.** Leader: Mike Garverich. A driving trip with numerous stops to examine penstemon species and other native plants. Route traverses the northern foothills of the Highland Mountains including the soon-to-be reopened Highlands Gold Mine. Easy. Limit 30
- **Mount Fleece.** Leaders: Kriss Douglass and RT Hawke. An unhurried uphill hike, traversing open, vegetated subalpine mountain slopes on terrain undisturbed since perhaps the last glacial ice retreat. Moderate. Limit 25
- **Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area.** Leader: Peter Lesica. Wide, rolling and watered meadows with adjacent stands of Lodgepole pine fill this gorgeous area, home to moose, elk, and black bear. Moderate. Limit 20
- **Silver Bow Creek Restoration – Evolution of a Superfund Site.** Leaders: Joe Griffin, Robert Pal, Matt Lavin. Learn about the geologic and biologic setting and history of mining on the Butte Hill, “Richest Hill on Earth”, and examine sections of the ongoing restoration of a creek and a landscape. Prepare for wet walking conditions. Easy. Limit 35

**Sunday Field Trips (still being developed)**
- **Durant Canyon.** Leader: Rich Prodgors.
- **Lost Creek.** Leader: Krystal Weilage
- **Sugarloaf Mountain.** Leader: RT Hawke

**Monday Field Trip**
Fairmont to Chief Joseph Pass to Salmon, Idaho (130 miles); participants can leave the group anywhere along the way. Leader: Noel Holmgren

**Other Activities**
Wayne Phillips’ Plant ID Contest, a Silent Auction, and T-shirts and other merchandise for sale.

**AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, June 24</th>
<th>11:00 - 8:00</th>
<th>Registration + Field Trip Sign-up + Silent Auction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 4:30</td>
<td>Workshops in Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:00</td>
<td>MNPS Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 – 6:00</td>
<td>APS Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Dinner, Announcements + speaker</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, June 25</th>
<th>7:00 – 8:00</th>
<th>Breakfast + pick up sack lunch (if preordered with registration)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Field Trips (bring a lunch)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Children’s program</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 6:00</td>
<td>Plant ID Contest; download field trip pics; Silent Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 – 7:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting, Silent Auction, picture show</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday, June 26</th>
<th>7:00 – 8:00</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Committee meetings (MNPS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Field trips depart; general departure</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The registration form for the 2016 APS Annual meeting being held jointly with the Montana Native Plant Society is shown in facsimile at the left. The online form can be printed and mailed or completed online.

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**APS Annual Meeting Registration Form**

The registration form can be printed and mailed with a check payable to MTAPS to Linda Lyon, 1527 Elison LN, Dillon, MT 59725. Questions? 406-683-2878.

### Annual Meeting Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult: Registration</th>
<th>Penstemon Society or MNPS members</th>
<th>$25.00</th>
<th>0</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult: Registration</td>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child: Registration</td>
<td>17 and under</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Friday Conference Events

- **Friday Seed Propagation Workshop:** 3 - 4:30PM ($110.00)
- **Friday Gross ID Workshop:** 3 - 4:30PM (limited to 14) ($110.00)

### Friday Meals

| Adult - Meal | Dinner - Tao Bar | $118.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Meal | Dinner - Tao Bar | $134.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Meal | Dinner - Tao Bar | $10.00  | 0 |

### Saturday Conference Events

- **Saturday 8:30AM - 2:30PM:** $6.00

### Saturday Meals

| Adult - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $12.50 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $11.00 | 0 |
| Child Under 4 - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $6.00  | 0 |
| Adult - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $15.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $12.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $10.00 | 0 |
| Adult - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $15.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $12.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $10.00 | 0 |
| Adult - Meal | Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna | $12.50 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Meal | Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna | $11.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Meal | Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna | $6.00  | 0 |
| Adult - Lunch Vegetarian | Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna | $15.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Lunch Vegetarian | Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna | $12.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Lunch Vegetarian | Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna | $10.00 | 0 |

### Sunday Meals

| Adult - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $12.50 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $10.00 | 0 |
| Child 4 and Under - Meal | Breakfast - Buffet | $6.00  | 0 |
| Adult - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $15.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $12.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Lunch | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $10.00 | 0 |
| Adult - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $15.00 | 0 |
| Children 5-12 - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $12.00 | 0 |
| Children Under 4 - Lunch Vegetarian | Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water | $10.00 | 0 |

### Donations

- Optional Contribution to APS: to support scholarships and grants ( signify your support.
- Optional Contribution to MNPS: to support grant programs ( signify your support.

### Total

**Grand Total:**

### Personal Information

- **E-Mail:**
- **First Name:** *
- **Last Name:** *
- **Address:** *
- **City:** *
- **State:** Choose a State *
- **Zip Code:** *
- **Phone:** *

**Credit/Debit Card or PAYPAL**
Monday Field Trip

Fairmont MT to Chief Joseph Pass to Salmon, Idaho (130 miles). Leader: Noel Holmgren. Participants may leave the trip anywhere and anytime along the way.

We have been invited to stop along the way at the Big Hole National Battlefield (BIHO) to learn about inventory and monitoring of Lemhi Penstemon (Penstemon lemhiensis). Lemhi Penstemon is a short-lived perennial endemic to Lemhi County in eastern Idaho and four counties in southwestern Montana, including Beaverhead County where Big Hole National Battlefield is located. Over 50% of known populations are made up of 30 plants or less and there are only three large populations known with over 300 plants. Results of inventory and monitoring efforts from 2009-2014 confirm the population at the battlefield to be the largest reported of the species, making Big Hole National Battlefield a crucial place for Lemhi Penstemon conservation. Dr. Tom Rodhouse of the National Park Service will meet with us to discuss the project, the park, the park’s long-term role in Penstemon conservation, etc. The trip will end in Salmon, ID, in late afternoon.

Pat Holmgren

Details from Karen Porter, co-chairman, APS-MNPS annual meeting

By tradition (and practicality), MNPS Annual Meeting field trips cannot be signed up for until on-site Friday afternoon-evening. On-site will be all the information a person needs to decide what trip(s) to choose. Each trip description and corresponding sign-up sheet, for both days, will be on a big table—an area map will be posted so that folks know generally where the trip is in the region. At the Welcome Meeting Friday night, trip leaders will be introduced, and following the meeting each trip leader meets with those who are signed up for her/his trip. At that time the car-pooling is worked out, and other details. Note that most trips have size limits, so early sign-up is better.

The Sunday trips all will depart at 9:00 AM from Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. It is understood that participants may drop out at any point to continue their journey home. The posted Trip Map will help folks decide what works best for them. Descriptions of these trips will be available on Friday with all the others.

Regarding the Friday evening talk, Peter Lesica (author of Manual of Montana Vascular Plants) and Noel Holmgren will jointly present: “Montana’s Penstemon Treasure Chest.” Peter’s powerpoint will include slides of Montana and its penstemons. Peter will discuss geography and Noel will discuss penstemons. The title is a little word play: Montana is known as the “Treasure State.”

Karen Brower’s Garden Tour

Karen Brower has invited those interested to tour her garden Friday June 24 between 10 AM and noon before the conference. Karen has extensive native and “same niche” plant species including many penstemons. She lives east of Butte, on the east side of Homestake Pass on I-90; use Pipestone Exit. Call to attend: 406-490-8872.
**Silent Auction**

The Silent Auction Co-chairs for this year’s joint meeting are soliciting auction items through Friday, June 10, 2016. Items sought include books (on plants, nature in general, field guides, photography, etc.), art work (paintings, photography, wall hangings, sculpture, pottery), home or yard decor, handcrafts, plant products like soap, wine—or other appropriate items. Donors should contact Co-chair Debbie Bishop at dbishop14@bresnan.net to confirm the item(s). At that time, two short forms will be sent to the donor to complete and return to Debbie. These forms allow the donor to accurately identify the item and assign a value, and record the transaction for her/his tax purposes. Having auction items mailed to us in advance is preferable, but we recognize that this is an expense and people may prefer to bring the item with them to the meeting. We are appreciative of the APS community for considering donations to the Silent Auction, and look forward to seeing you in June.

Karen Porter

**Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to help with Registration and field trip sign-up for our joint meeting with the Montana Native Plant Society. Please let Pat (pholmgren@nybg.org) know if you are willing to help for an hour or two whenever most convenient for you between noon and 8 pm on June 24 in the Cutthroat and Meadowlark meeting rooms, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. I will prepare a schedule, so please let me know the best time for you. Thanks very much. — Pat

**Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of APS**

The first bulletin of the APS was published May 27, 1946. However, according to this bulletin, the APS started in December, 1945 (no specific date given) with 11 members. I joined the Midwest Section of the APS in 1976. I remember the 1976 annual Midwest meeting in Kansas. I joined the national APS a couple of years later. I looked over the list of APS members from 1976 and did not see any current members on the list. I believe there might be several members from 1976 that are no longer members but are still alive.

I have no list of members from about 1979 to 1983 and another list of members for a few years since then. I will see what else I can find about membership.

Dale Lindgren, Historian

Logo art by Douglas Hastings, Beaverton OR, multimedia artist
Our Brand-New APS Website
Hugh MacMillan, Webmaster

In 2009 the APS made a decision to update its web presence. Many hours of work by volunteers Barbara Lewis and Bob McFarlane as well as my efforts resulted in the current website http://apsdev.org.

With many advances in the tools, web generators, database generators, scripting and such, the time had come to build out a cleaner more user-friendly website. The society board endorsed the proposal and work is currently underway. The new web address, known also as the URL, is http://penstemons.org. Please feel free to visit the site and watch as it grows. The framework is in place and content will be added in the next few weeks.

The most significant change will be the ‘members only’ portal, accessed by supplying a username and password. These user accounts will be created and distributed to the members shortly. Logging in to the members’ area will expose content only available to valid users. We anticipate using this area as a repository for the minutes and documents of the Society Board of Directors, the archival of documents, and yet to be determined content.

A new image presentation application has been adopted in lieu of the current tool. The new presence promises to be more user-friendly with easier navigation, more room for descriptions and an element called shadow box that frames images in a dark frame format. We are always looking for high quality penstemon photos to grace our gallery.

We are very pleased to announce that an extensive library of society bulletins will be added to the website. We owe Mikel Stevens a shout-out for scanning all those many volumes.

In addition to content, a visual aid has been integrated. Near the top right area, one will find a widget that allows the user to increase or decrease the size of the font to six sizes larger or smaller.

More information will be given in future newsletters and email blasts. Again, you are encouraged to visit the site and watch us grow.

It would be very helpful if someone more familiar than I with Facebook would volunteer to manage that section of the website. My email is listed at the end of each newsletter. Facebook can be a strong tool for attracting new members.

Thank you!
Hugh

*Periantherus v redactus* (to be seen in MT; Photo Stephen Love)
Barrie Porteous recently was elected by the APS Board of Directors to be the recipient of the 2016 Featured Photographer award. Barrie is long-time member of APS and a consistent attendee at annual meetings. Barrie and his wife Jane are residents of Richmond Hill, Ontario. Barrie is an accomplished amateur photographer and most of his photographs of penstemons were taken during annual meeting field trips. Barrie will be sharing some of his favorite penstemon photographs at the annual meeting this June at Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana and again in the 2017 APS Bulletin. We look forward to seeing his work.

Stephen Love, Bulletin Editor

Clockwise from top left, photos by Barrie Porteous: *P. immanifestus, P. acaulis, P. halliied, P. duchenensis*
The Society awarded $3900 in grants to four deserving projects this year. John Christy, Portland State University received funding to continue work on Penstemon hesperius to determine if it is distinct taxon. John will work with Ginny Maffitt and other collaborators to document specific habitat requirements of the taxon, and to investigate morphological features that may help to separate *P. hesperius* from *P. rydbergii*.

Three other funded projects are for public gardens:

Discover Your Forest, the non-profit partner of the Deschutes National Forest, will work with the Life Skills Program at Bend (OR) Senior High School (and other partners) to raise Penstemon plants for habitat restoration at Newberry National Volcanic Monument and the school’s Hummingbird Habitat Garden.

The Los Alamos Nature Center will use their funds to construct a new public Penstemon garden and initiate a breeding project with their local white-flowered *P. virgatus* populations.

The Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association already has an established botanical garden, so will use its award to educate the public about Penstemons, through brochures, plant labels, and interpretive signage.
From the President

Marcia and I cannot attend the APS meeting in Montana because of other commitments. However, I know the meeting will be wonderful because it is in the capable hands of Noel and Pat Holmgren and the leadership of the Montana Native Plant Society. I understand from reliable sources that the wildflowers are going to be spectacular this year.

We just returned from a trip with the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society to the Four Corners area, led by Navaho botanist Arnold Clifford. The main reason for the trip was to see rare cacti and succulents on the Navaho reservation. The highlight of the trip was seeing *Pediocactus knowltonii*, the smallest and rarest of the species—with only about 6500 individuals on a 12-acre preserve.

However, since we are interested in all plants, we couldn’t resist stopping on a single lane dirt road and to take images *Penstemon albidus* growing along the roadside. *Penstemon breviculus* was just beginning to open.

Have a great time in Montana.

Randy Tatroe
President, APS

*P. lentus variety albiflorus (Keck) Reveal*, endemic to Abajo Mts. Utah. Dr. James Reveal passed away in 2015 and is greatly missed. (Photo by Randy Tatroe Bear’s Ears near Natural Bridges National Park on May 8, 2016)
For the Board: American Penstemon Society
2015-2016 SeedEx Report
May 2016

From Louise Parsons

Seed donors are the “hub and quintessence” of our exchange. It is amazing that a relatively small number of generous folks contribute such a wide assortment of species and varietal seeds. Along with numerous specialist groups, I am concerned that we are still on a decreasing trend for the number of donors - down from 15 donors last year to 11 this year. Ideas on ways to encourage donations are always very welcome. Since we continue to make a small “profit”, I again urge that we offer modest grants to some donors, who bear considerable travel expense to collect in the wild. Even so we had an amazing array of selections, with 162 listings this past year. A total of 46 members participated in the exchange. This also shows a decreased participation, down from 58 in the previous year. A total of about 760 packets were distributed. Our URL (website address) is included on each packet of promotional seed.

We need to remind members to provide e-mail addresses and notify us of address changes on a continuing basis. In a late summer/early fall newsletter I will provide a reminder to those who need a paper list to notify me with a postcard note.

In spite of the concerning trends, the SeedEx should be able to continue without increasing prices. To save on glassine envelopes, I continue to package seed “upon request”. At ANY time, I am always happy to “open up for business” and accommodate any special requests for promotional seed, seed for new members, seed for research, etc.

We have a long tradition of support towards botanic gardens, research projects, and other institutional activities. Once again, I have never received any communication from the Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center. We continue to have an excess of seed and it would be beneficial to share that even with non-member groups that promote penstemon growing, breeding, and conservation.

I regret that, because of workload and family events (yet another wedding in my huge family ::smiles::), I am unable to make the upcoming Annual Meeting.

At any time let me know if you have –or hear of --any request for the 2016-17 seed list.

\[P\text{ humilis var. }\text{ humilis}\text{ (to be seen in MT; photo Stephen Love, 5-21-13)}\]
AZ wildflowers—Ellen Wilde

This has been a great Spring in AZ for wildflowers. *Penstemon superbus* started blooming in my garden at the end of February. Unfortunately it does not get a full day of sun because my desert trees grew too rapidly and it leans instead of growing erect, but I love the coral color.

I drove up The Apache Trail to Roosevelt Lake on March 13 looking for penstemons in the wild and found Penstemons *parryi* and *eatonii* just as we reached the end of the Trail and turned onto Rt. 88. I have never driven such a hair-raising gravel road, but the scenery was fantastic, even though I could barely lift my eyes from the road to look at the formations, lakes below, peaks all around and flowers everywhere. How I wished for a self-driving car!

My daughter, Elena Rowe, is forwarding picture of *P. superbus* and *parryi*. I hope you can use them in the Newsletter. I don't have MS Word anymore so couldn't send a proper article. *P. parryi* varies from rosy pink to plum color and is very hardy around central AZ but *P. superbus* seems to do better further south. —Ellen
A desert preserve in Tucson recently inaugurated what it says is the most diverse penstemon garden in the Southwest.

Tohono Chul Park says the new 3,000-square-foot garden features nearly 80 penstemon species. Penstemons are a favorite of local pollinators, such as hummingbirds and butterflies, the preserve says.

The preserve also sells penstemons at its retail greenhouse. It says the plants are drought tolerant and wildlife friendly. Visitors to Tohono Chul can tour the penstemon garden to find the types of penstemons they like, then visit the greenhouse to purchase them.

Other recent improvements at Tohono Chul include a new entry path, with succulent gardens and a mesquite bosque, and the Desert Palm Oasis Garden.

Tohono Chul Park is located at 7366 N. Paseo del Norte in Tucson. It's open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and admission is $10 for adults ($5 for park members). For more information, call 520-742-6455 or visit www.tohonochulpark.org.
New APS Members Since February, 2016 Newsletter

Verdant Connections LA LLC, Reno, NV
John Christy, Portland, OR
Victor Hudenko, Flagstaff, AZ
Laurie Hixson, Los Alamos, NM
Karen Gentry, Sunriver, OR
Benjamin Stone, Columbus, OH

Lindsey Jaquez, Pueblo, CO
Chance Munn, Twin Falls, ID
Kali Benson, Kiowa, CO
Timothy Becker, Sun Valley, CA
J. John Flintoff, Lake Forest Park, WA

Los Alamos Master Gardeners, Los Alamos, NM
Kelly Norris, Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens, Des Moines, IA

Life Members
Stephen Love, Aberdeen, ID
Dorothy Tuthill, Laramie, WY
Jim Swayne, Walla Walla, WA
David Fueger, Flagstaff, AZ

*P radicosus* Bear River, UT (to be seen in MT; photo Stephen Love)
Membership Renewal

The American Penstemon Society involves almost 300 penstemon aficionados world-wide, many of whom will enjoy meeting other APS members and traveling to Fairmont, Montana for our annual meeting on June 24-27, 2016. Dues entitle members to have access to the quarterly APS Newsletter (with a notice sent to our members electronically and posted on our website), to receive the annual APS bulletin by regular mail and the opportunity to obtain penstemon seed through the annual APS seed exchange. Dues run on a calendar basis, renewed at the first of each year. Because the American Penstemon Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all donations and memberships are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Unless otherwise specified, no goods or services were received for this donation. The receipt of a Newsletter or Bulletin is not considered as “goods”.

| US and Canadian annual dues are $15 US; Elsewhere $20 US. Annual 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. |

There are two methods to pay the dues, by PayPal on our website at www.apsdev.org. or by check payable to American Penstemon Society and mailed to:

Dale Lindgren/Phoebe McFarlane, Membership Secretaries
9202 Maloney Drive, North Platte, NE 69101

If you wish to contact Dale Lindgren and/or Phoebe McFarlane with questions about your membership they can be reached at aps.membership@yahoo.com. Please update any current information with new phone numbers or e-mail address. 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.

If you have changed your e-mail address lately or any other of your information we have on our APS Roster, please send this information to the Membership Chairmen at aps.membership@yahoo.com. Thank you.
### APS Officers

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**P. globosus** (to be seen in MT; photo Stephen Love, 29Jul14)