

The Penstemaniac

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY
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Registration Details for 2019 APS Annual Meeting in Walden CO

by Mike Kintgen

Curator of Alpine Collections, Denver Botanic Gardens

The 2019 meeting of the American Penstemon Society (APS) will be based in northwest Colorado in the tiny town of Walden (zipcode 80480). The Annual Meeting begins on Friday, May 31 and continues through Monday, June 3.

We are requesting that registration be limited to 80 members. This is a popular tourist town and lodging may quickly become unavailable. We urge you to make reservations as soon as possible. At this time, lodging is available at the following places:

- Antlers Inn 970-723-4670
- Calamity Trading Post Cabins, Kings Canyon, CO www.airbnb.com
- Chedsey Motel 970-723-8201
- Clark Peak Cabins, LLC 970-723-8300
- Granite Corner RV Park 970-723-4628
- Majestic Moose Cabin 970-692-4160
- North Park Inn and Suites 970-723-4271
- Powderhorn Cabins 970-723-4359
- Walden Suites 970-723-8201
- Westside Motel 970-723-8589

Update and Details for 2019 meeting

Work continues on the 2019 Meeting in Walden, Colorado May 31-June 3rd. There is an exciting line up of speakers and field trips planned for the conference. We hope you can join us to see some lovely penstemons in the wild, learn about conservation work being done in Colorado, explore propagation techniques, and learn why North Park is so unique. Additional opportunities on June 3rd exist to see a large penstemon collection in a public garden in Steamboat Springs and if weather conditions cooperate, a private garden near Steamboat Springs with a large collection of alpine and native plants.

The **Registration Form** is at the end of this article, **page 6**.

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2019 APS Speakers

• Bryan Fischer

A native of Fort Collins, Colorado, Bryan's family settled North Park in the early 1900's and has maintained ties to the area for over 100 years. Bryan has a B.S. in Horticulture from Colorado State University and has worked with both the alpine and native collections at Denver Botanic Gardens, as well as at the Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins. A regular visitor to North Park since a very young age with an eye for the native flora of the region, Bryan knows the area well and has been instrumental in vegetation surveys on his family's ranch through Denver Botanic Garden's *Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium*. Bryan will speak about the region's history, its flora, and what makes North Park and the surrounding mountains unique botanically.

• Mike Bone

Also a native of Colorado, Mike Bone is the curator of the Steppe Collections at Denver Botanic Gardens where he has been instrumental in developing the new Steppe Garden and living collections from the four major steppes of the world. Mike has traveled to three of the four steppes and has conducted research in Asia, South Africa and throughout Western North America. In addition to being a curator, Mike is an excellent propagator and has worked on protocols for many difficult Western and steppe-dwelling plants. He will explain propagation of penstemons, including seeds and cuttings.

• Michelle DePringer-Levin

Michelle has been a Research Assistant with Denver Botanic Gardens since 2002. She works in the Research and Conservation Department with Colorado's rare and endangered plants. Michelle studies applied plant conservation. She conducts field research on plant population dynamics and models species distributions, population level genetic structure, and response to climate change. Michelle currently is working on a PhD at the University of Colorado, Denver. She will be speaking about some of the work DBG is doing with Colorado's rare and endangered penstemons.

Field trips

• Saturday

There will be three field trips on Saturday. **Each field trip is limited to 27 people.**

- Field trips are caravan style with the leader driving a vehicle and others following. Carpooling is highly encouraged.
- June will be high mosquito population time in North Park and parts of Middle Park. There are enough rivers, lakes, and irrigated hay meadows that despite the steppe-like vegetation, the mosquitoes can be legendary. Please wear long sleeves, pants and bring bug repellent. Ticks also have been encountered, although rarely.

1) North Park, Roads #5 and #17, and Independence Mountain

Leader: Mike Kintgen

This field trip takes place in steppe, moist meadows, and possibly forest habitats, depending on season. *Penstemon cyananthophorus, secundiflorus, virens, virgatus*, and possibly *saxosorum* all may be seen. The field trip offers a wide variety of *Astragalus, Oxytropus, Erigeron, Eriogonum, Castilleja, Lupinus* and other assorted spring steppe genera. If time, weather conditions and interest allow, a possible visit to see *Cypripedium* and other disjunct Pacific Northwest genera as well.

2) Fischer Ranch

Leader: Bryan Fischer

This is a private ranch owned by the Fischer family and still is the residence of the Fischer Family. Please be respectful of Bryan's wishes. *Penstemon cyananthophorus* and *virgatus* are on the property along with an interesting array of species not found on the west side of the park (*Mertensia humilis, Opuntia fragilis, Opuntia cf polyacantha*). Bryan will show you some of the wide variety of habitats found on the property. This trip requires high clearance vehicles or 4-wheel drive vehicles to access some of the two-track ranch roads. There will be some walking as well to reach sites without disturbing vegetation on the ranch. Carpooling is highly encouraged.

3) Independence Mountain and Roads #5 and #17

Leader: Mike Bone

This drive showcases high elevation steppe (>9,000), along with open forest environments and moist meadows. The trip will continue on Roads 17 and 5 in the reverse order of the first field trip. We will see *P. cyananthophorus, secundiflorus, virens, virgatus*, and possibly *saxosorum*. The trip offers a wide variety of *Astragalus, Oxytropus, Erigeron, Eriogonum, Castilleja, Lupinus* and other assorted spring steppe flora. If time, weather conditions and interest allow, a possible visit to see *Cypripedium*, and other Pacific Northwest disjuncts exist as well.

• Sunday

There will be three field trips on Sunday. **Each field trip is limited to 27 people.**

1) North Park, Roads #5 and #17 and Independence Mountain

Leader Bryan Fischer

This field trip takes in Steppe, moist meadow and possibly forest habitats depending on time. *Penstemon cyananthophorus, secundiflorus, virens, virgatus*, and possibly *P. saxosorum* could be seen. The trip offers a wide variety of *Genus astragalus, oxytropis, erigeron, eriogonum, castilleja, lupinus* and other assorted spring steppe flora. If time, weather conditions and interest allow, we may see *Genus cypripedium*, and other Pacific Northwest disjuncts.

2) State Bridge

Leader: Mike Bone

This field trip will pass over Gore Pass and down into the Colorado River Valley around State Bridge. This is *Pinyon Juniper* habitat and is home to *Penstemon caespitosus*, *osterhoutii* and *harringtonii*. There also will be the potential to see *P. watsonii* and *P. strictus*. The trip then will pass through Radium up to Middle Park with the opportunity to see more *P. caespitosus*, *P. cyanthophorus* again, *P. virgatus* and possibly *P. penlandii* (as of writing we still are waiting on BLM permission to visit *P. penlandii*). A slight detour near Radium could offer the possibility to see *P. crandallii*.

3) Middle Park

Leader: Mike Kintgen

This field trip will pass through Middle Park to Kremmling with the opportunity to see *P. caespitosus*, *P. cyanthophorus* again, *P. virgatus* and possibly *P. penlandii*. The trip will continue on through Radium and down into the Colorado River Valley around State Bridge. A slight detour near Radium could offer the po then possibly to see *P. crandallii*. This is *Pinyon Juniper* habitat and is home to *P. caespitosus*, *osterhoutii* and *harringtonii*. There also will be the potential to see *P. watsonii*, and *P. strictus*. The group then will return to Walden via Gore Pass.

• Monday June 3rd (Optional Day)

Yampa River Botanic Park

This 22 year-old five-acre public garden in Steamboat Springs houses extensive native, alpine and ornamental collections. The penstemons are housed in several gardens: *The Penstemon Garden* (scheduled for renovation in 2019), *The Crevice Garden*, *The Xeric Garden* and *Jeff's Garden*. Early June should be a great time to visit.

If spring weather conditions cooperate, Mike Kintgen will open his private garden 35 miles north of Steamboat Springs. Mike will not be able to determine if it will be open until sometime in May when the snow melts. This garden lies at 8,200 feet (2500m) and houses hundreds of species that are adapted to the short growing season.



P. secundiflorus North Park (Mike Kintgen)

Photo Gallery

Some of the penstemons that are expected to be seen in the upcoming APS field trips near Walden CO.



P. oosterhoutii, trough, 4-2007 (Maffitt)



P. rydbergii v *aggregatus*, large corolla, Highway 43, Trail Creek ID MP 8 (Maffitt)



P. penlandii (Wikipedia, no provenance)



Penstemon saxosorum Routt County (Mike Kintgen)



Penstemon virens (Gary Monroe)

REGISTRATION FORM

2019 AMERICAN PENSTEMON ANNUAL MEETING

Name _____

Accompanying persons name(s) _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Registration Fees	# people	day	\$ total
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Full Meeting Registration (\$135/person includes 2 dinners)	_____	_____	_____
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Single Day Registration (\$45/person/day) Fri, Sat, Sun	_____	_____	_____
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Attending Monday Optional Day? _____ Yes _____ No

Grand Total	_____	_____	_____
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Payment can be made by filling out and mailing this form with an enclosed check made out to the 'American Penstemon Society' (no cash, please) to,

Randy Tatroe
17156 E. Berry Place
Centennial, CO 80015
Email: rtatroe@q.com

Alternately, you may pay by PayPal or Credit Card on our website. Check the online registration feature under the ANNUAL MEETING tab. You will find the appropriate information there.

After we receive your registration and payment we will send you a confirming email or letter.

Please note APS members in good standing or non-members may register and attend this meeting. If you aren't a member please consider joining the American Penstemon Society. Also note that you will be required to sign and return a waiver of APS responsibility for any accident or other misfortune you might encounter during these meetings. It will be sent to you along with your confirmation and must be returned before your registration is complete.

Letter from the President

Hello Penstemaniacs!

It's cold, snowy and sunny here in Laramie—a good time to think about summer wildflowers and to get penstemon seeds into the fridge for spring planting. Like us all, I'm looking forward to the spring bloom, which comes late here in the high country. I'm glad we'll all be able to share the flowers this year at the annual meeting in Walden. Walden is not far from my home (by Western standards), and I can personally vouch for its spectacular setting between two mountain ranges. North Park also is the headwaters of the North Platte River, so bring along fishing gear, if you like good angling.

As I thank Randy and Mike for their efforts to bring us all a great meeting, I want to remind all of our members that everything you get from the American Penstemon Society—meetings, newsletters, website, grants, publications, etc.—is brought to you by volunteers. And volunteers get burned out after a while. We need everyone to share in the work to make a dynamic and successful Society! Currently, we are in need of a vice president, a newsletter editor, and a nominating chair. Soon we will be recruiting for most board positions. Please do not leave these tasks to someone else—these are great opportunities to meet good people and contribute to a good cause. Please contact me (dtuthill@uwyo.edu) for information on any position. I look forward to hearing from all of you soon, and seeing you in June!

Dorothy

Dorothy Tuthill, President
American Penstemon Society

Seed Exchange

Rick Wesseler

The APS [Seed Exchange](#) now resides on the APS website. Please visit the website for complete information about the Seed Exchange.

We want to thank all the members who have donated seed in 2018 and encourage everyone to consider donating in 2019. Any amount of seed, cleaned or uncleaned, is greatly appreciated and may be just what another member is wishing to grow in their garden! Thank you in advance for helping to continue to make this a part of what the Society has to offer members.



2018 APS meeting field trip. Beth Corbin is giving driving instructions for the day's field trips.

In Memoriam: Sharon Boge

Sharon Kaye Boge passed away Dec. 3, 2018. A long-time active member of the Penstemon Society, she is survived by husband Dallas, four daughters and seven grandchildren. She and Dallas have owned a Christmas tree farm for many years near Gale's Creek, a small Oregon community on the east side of the Coast Range in northwestern Oregon. A well-attended memorial service was held on Saturday, January 19th, this year at the First Methodist church in nearby Portland. This large church has a pipe organ, which was beautifully played with many of her favorite songs, including compositions by Bach, Handel plus more contemporary music. She was a nurse by profession. Sharon and Dallas attended last year's APS meeting at Bonnie Springs Ranch near Red Rocks State Park, NV plus meetings in central California and Boise, Idaho. Dallas promises to attend this year's meeting!

Spotlight on Members

[Gary Monroe](#)

Gary Monroe received a Bachelor Degree in Agronomy from Washington State University in 1962. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist, predominately on the Snake River Plain Area of Southern Idaho. He came to the Nevada State NRCS Office in 1978 and worked on editing soil series descriptions, Soil Survey Manuscripts and inputting data into the National Soil Information System (NASIS) program, then retired in 1993 as a soil scientist after 33 years. He freely makes available many of his photos from APS trips, which enhance this newsletter greatly.

[Noel & Pat Holmgren](#)

Pat and Noel Holmgren spent the entirety of their careers at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). They are prominent figures in the plant systematics community. Their work resulted in a large volume of scientific work and the publication of *Index Herbarium*, the *Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*, and *Intermountain Flora*. After retirement, the Holmgrens continue to volunteer at NYBG where they both enjoy curatorial Emeritus status. They are frequent attendees at APS annual meetings.

[Andi Wolfe](#)

Andi Wolfe is a long-time member of APS who has served on the Board as an at-large member. She is on the faculty of Ohio State University in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology; teacher and researcher in Ecology and Evolution, DNA Sequencing, Sequencing, Systematics Phylogenetic Analysis, Population genetics, Genetic Diversity, and Botany Evolutionary Biology. She generally brings graduate students to APS events providing true "in the field experiences".

[Stephen Love](#)

Stephen Love is Research Professor of Crop Science, Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho. His emphasis is on the commercialization of native plant species. He is the Editor of the APS *Bulletin* and Librarian and Custodian of Slides on the APS Board. His extensive [CV](#) highlights his career as Research Professor of Crop Science in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences.

[Mikel Stevens](#)

Mikel Stevens was the American Penstemon Society 2015 Featured Photographer. Along with Stephen Love, Mikel co-authored *A Field Guide to the Penstemon of Utah* and with co-authors Stephen Love and T. McCammon,, *The Natural History of the Penstemon of Utah* (Sweetgrassbooks).

Ed: Rick Charnes found APS on the web. He wanted to learn more about penstemons and being a “tech guy” suspected that others would like to know more about penstemons so he started a “Google Group”, which is an online “chat room” or “forum” where participants can share information. In the past we’ve featured “Robin Letters”.

APS Google Discussion Forum

by Rick Charnes

I am an absolute beginner to the penstemon world, and here in Boston, so far from primary penstemon country, that’s about as far as most of us go. I did, however, have the pleasure of witnessing in June, 2018, the glorious sight of a *Penstemon strictus* plant I’d winter-seeded in January, 2017, coming into flower. Together with a June spent admiring the spectacular wine-red beauty of the *P. x’Prairie Dusk’* I’d planted the year before, that was enough to hook me into loving penstemons. I had a feeling that I’d found something really special, but I also sensed I had a lot to learn.

Then, browsing online one day, I found APS and joined, and started reading as much as I could. But I realized pretty quickly that there’s not a lot of information available to help budding penstemaniacs in the northeastern US with our rich soil, wet winters and humid summers. I knew I wanted to plant and experiment more but I needed help. I learned that APS had no online discussion forum where someone like

myself could ask questions and toss around ideas with a group of people. Necessity is the mother of invention and I decided to be bold and contacted some of the officers of the organization and introduced myself and asked if they’d like me to create an online discussion forum. I received an enthusiastic yes, and went ahead and created the Google group on November 29. In the first week we had 24 messages on topics ranging from the proper identification of *P. serrulatus* and *P. richardsonii* to determining which species can be grown in certain environments.

For those of you who aren’t familiar with this type of discussion forum, it’s a group of people who join together online via email to discuss a particular topic. For us, it’s a chance to discuss everything to do with penstemons. Google Groups is one type of discussion forum, and it’s the one I chose to use. The name of the group is, just, “penstemon.” To become a member, and I hope you



Pentstemon osterhoutii Eagle County, CO
(Mike Kintgen)

all will, you do have to “join” or “subscribe” separately from your APS membership. For now the online group is limited to APS members.

How To Join - The Easy Way

Around the time you receive this newsletter, I'll have sent an email invitation to everyone in the membership database at the email address provided when you joined. Just reply to that email, and you're in, and can start sending questions and comments to the group.

But if you miss this email, or want to subscribe from a different email address, then *send a blank email to penstemon+subscribe@googlegroups.com*. You'll get back an email “Join request for penstemon.”

Then

- *Open it and click “Join this Group”.*
- *At the web page, re-enter your email address and click **Subscribe***
- *Check for an email “**Confirm your Subscription**”, click “**Join This Group**”.*

You'll get back a message indicating that your request was successful and is awaiting approval. As soon as I subscribe you, you're in.

If you have a Google Account, you can click “Visit the group” button. You don't need a Gmail address to have a Google account, but if you don't have a Google account or don't know what it is, don't worry—you're ready to start posting and contributing to penstemon discussions by email.

To participate in the [forum](#)

After you're a member, to share your thoughts or questions or comments with everyone who's a member of the group, you can just send one email to a single address: penstemon@googlegroups.com. Your email automatically will get sent to everyone. That's the beauty of this forum—you don't have to list everyone in the TO: line the way you do with ordinary email; sending it to the *group address* does it for you.

How To Reply To An Existing Email

**** IMPORTANT: WHEN REPLYING, PLEASE REPLY ALL ****

When you want to reply to someone else's email, please **REPLY ALL** so it goes to everyone in the group. Please consider that most of the time others would love to see more discussion.

If you are sure that you only want to reply to the individual, that's fine and just do **REPLY**, but we're trying to generate group discussion. Most of the time that you are tempted to send a response only privately, consider that others really would benefit from and appreciate what you have to say, even (or especially!) if it's written in an informal tone. So please **REPLY ALL** as much as possible. We now have **63 members** on the discussion forum. It's a wonderful way to get help and discuss any topic regarding our beloved Penstemon—and to keep the spirit alive during these winter months. I hope you'll join and participate.

2019 American Penstemon Society Membership Form

The American Penstemon Society is hundreds of penstemon aficionados world-wide, many of whom enjoy meeting other APS members and traveling to interesting venues each year for our annual meetings/field trips.

Dues include our APS Newsletter (with a link sent to our members electronically when each edition is published, and archived copies are posted on our website), the annual APS Bulletin, and the opportunity to obtain penstemon seed through the APS seed exchange. The membership year is January through December, and renewal dues are payable by the first of January in each subsequent year. The American Penstemon Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations and memberships are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Unless otherwise specified, no goods or services are received for a donation. The receipt of a Newsletter or Bulletin is not considered as "goods".

Effective January 1, 2019, annual membership dues are \$25 for USA/Canada, \$40 for international membership, and \$250 for life membership. Three-year membership are \$50 for US and Canada and \$80 for International members. 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 <http://penstemons.org> or by check payable to American Penstemon Society and mailed to:

Beth Corbin, Membership Secretary
PO Box 52
Marsing, ID 83639

For new memberships, or to renew an existing membership, please print this page and fill in the member information section below and either email it to Beth (aps.membership@yahoo.com) or mail it to her at the same time as your dues are being paid. Please contact Beth with any questions about your membership, or to update your contact information currently on file. Thanks for your enthusiastic support of the Society!

Membership Level: New ___ Renewal ___ Gift Membership: ___ from _____

2019

US & Canada, one year\$25
US & Canada, three years.....\$50
International, one year \$40
International, three years.....\$80
Student..... \$5
Life Membership\$250
OPTIONAL: Donation to Special Projects Program \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

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



AmazonSmile!

In *The Penstemaniac* (Summer 2017) American Penstemon Society (APS) Treasurer Mary Cunningham introduced **AmazonSmile** as a fundraising option for the Society.

Anyone who uses Amazon can use **AmazonSmile** instead, in which **AmazonSmile** donates 0.5% of each sale to a charity. Donations are issued four times per year (February, May, August, November) for donations generated in the previous quarters. If the balance is under \$5.00, donation deposits will be issued only once per year. If the customer selects APS as the charity recipient, APS will receive a cash award at least once a year. Only one charity per Amazon account is allowed.

To associate your Amazon account with APS **AmazonSmile** click on APS' unique charity link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0267834>. **Note** that if you've recently made Amazon purchases, you must log out of your Amazon account and click on the [APS link](#) to activate APS **AmazonSmile**.

After you've made a purchase on **AmazonSmile** you will receive an email that reads in part:

"Thanks for visiting smile.amazon.com! Per your request, we have successfully changed the **AmazonSmile** charity you are supporting to **American Penstemon Society**."

Details about **AmazonSmile** are available [online](#). When you check out after a purchase on **AmazonSmile** you will be prompted to identify your charity.

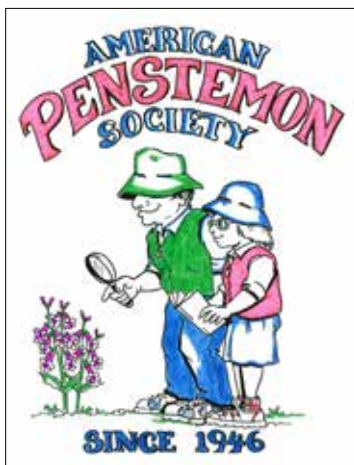
Help spread the word to our members so they can generate donations for APS when they shop on Amazon using AmazonSmile.

Bookmark **AmazonSmile** and remember to order through **AmazonSmile!**

APS Board members October 2018

Elected members (term 3 years)	Name	email address
President	Dorothy Tuthill.....	dtuthill@uwyo.edu
Vice President.....	Vacant.....	
Treasurer	Lupita Wesseler	aps.treasurer@yahoo.com
Secretary.....	Ellen Watrous.....	watrous4@comcast.net
Membership	Beth Corbin	aps.membership@yahoo.com
At-large	Andi Wolfe	wolfe.205@osu.edu
At-large	Cindy Reed.....	c.reed@gpnps.org
At-large	Bob Pennington.....	aguafrianr@aol.com

Appointed members	Name	email address
Newsletter Editor	Ginny Maffitt	ginnyvaccinium1@gmail.com
Seed Exchange	Rick Wesseler	wessler@bendbroadband.com
Website administrator.....	Hugh Mac Millan	humanator@yahoo.com
Nominating Committee.....	vacant.....	
Bulletin Editor	Stephen Love	slove@uidaho.edu
Grants Chair	Dorothy Tuthill.....	dtuthill@uwyo.edu
Historian.....	Dale Lindgren.....	dlindgren1@uni.edu
Newsletter Publishing Assistance.....	Martha Dibblee	mgdibblee@gmail.com
Librarian and Custodian of Slides.....	Stephen Love	slove@uidaho.edu
Registrar of Cultivars and Hybrids.....	Dale Lindgren.....	dlindgren1@unl.edu
Robins Coordinator.....	Libby Wheeler	glwheel@prodigy.net
Marketing	Ginny Maffitt	ginnyvaccinium1@gmail.com



Cartoon by Doug Hastings

The Editor of this newsletter reminds readers that pictures of APS events always are welcome, including photos of people, flowers, places, and occurrences. If you have photos you'd be willing to share with the Editor, please email penstemoneditor@gmail.com. The Editor will advise you about how to send pictures. Please provide the date and location of your photo, your first and last name, and a short description of the event, flower/critter, or occurrence you've photographed.