

AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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California's Mount Shasta in the background with a nice patch of *Penstemon davidsonii* to catch the eye.

CONTENTS FOR THIS ISSUE

The equinox has come and gone and All Hallows Eve is but a scary thought. The growing seasons are pretty much over and our favorite plants are preparing themselves for winter. Just as we, ourselves, should be doing. Happy Thanksgiving

I am sure many of you recorded this year's beautiful blooming season with a camera. Submit those images to Steven Love soon so that we can all enjoy them. Now is also a good time to get your seeds cleaned and sorted and ready to plant for next spring. Norway's Robin contributor, Kari Wang, writes about her garden penstemons and her European travels. The membership committee urges you to send in your membership renewal soon. A renewal form is included in this newsletter.

Also in this issue we get an in depth glimpse of the 2011 American Penstemon Annual Meeting and Tour in Oregon's beautiful Siskiyou Mountains.



Penstemon pachyphyllus D. Dickerson

2010 APS PHOTO CONTEST

The American Penstemon Society announces its 3rd Annual Photo Contest for society members. We invite all penstemaniacs to submit their best photographs for consideration and judging.

Submissions Procedures:

Submission deadline: **December 10, 2010.**

For ease of distribution during judging, photographs should be submitted in digital file format (preferably JPEG) as an attachment to an email or sent through the mail on a CD. Digital file entries should have sufficient resolution (file size of 1 mb or greater) to be printed in 8" X 10" format without loss of quality. Film-derived pictures may be scanned and sent as digital files. (If you have pictures or slides but no way to scan them, please submit the originals and we will make arrangements to have them scanned. The originals will be returned.)

Include the following information with each photograph:

1. Category of entry (one of the following):
 - Penstemons in a natural setting
 - Penstemons in a garden
 - Penstemons and penstemaniacs at an annual meeting
2. Name and full address of the photographer (include a phone number and email address).
3. Subject species or cultivar name (if known).
4. Year the photograph was taken.
5. Location and/or event name associated with the subject.

Please submit photographs (**by December 10th**) to:
Dr. Stephen Love
University of Idaho

Aberdeen R & E Center
1693 S 2700 W
Aberdeen, ID 83210
Phone: 208-397-4181
Email: slove@uidaho.edu

Contest Rules:

1. You must be a member of the American Penstemon Society to participate in the contest.
2. Photographs must contain images of penstemons (or penstemaniacs), although penstemons can be a portion of a larger photographic subject.

3. Entries must be actual photographs taken with a digital or film camera. There is no restriction on the type of camera or film used. Pictures may be color or black-and-white.
4. Pictures can be slightly enhanced or improved using routine developing or digital procedures (e.g. cropping, correcting color imbalances, or adjusting contrast). However, they should not be extensively altered (e.g. flower image inserted into an alternate or artificial background) or created using digital techniques.
5. Photographs will be entered in one of three categories:
 - a. Penstemons in a natural setting (pictures of penstemons growing in their natural environment)
 - b. Penstemons in the garden (pictures of penstemons in a cultivated situation, such as a home landscape, botanical garden, etc.)
 - c. Penstemons or penstemaniacs at an annual meeting (pictures from annual meetings, regional botanizing tour, or other APS sanctioned event that can include people, penstemons, or both)
6. Within a contest year, each participant can enter only one photograph within any of the three categories, but may enter one photograph in each of the three categories, for a total of 3 maximum entries.
7. A photograph may be entered into the competition only one time, regardless of category. Once entered, photographs are ineligible for entry into future contests.
8. Photographic submissions must include written descriptive information, specifically species or cultivar names, location of subject(s), year the photograph was taken, and anything else that may be informative to the viewer.
9. All photographs will be judged by a rotating panel made up of three APS members, each with some expertise in the art of photography.
10. Recognition will be given to the top three photographs in each category. The nine winning photographs will be published in the annual bulletin of the American Penstemon Society. Additionally, a token monetary award will be given to winners, as follows:

1st place in each category- \$50

2nd place in each category- \$30

3rd place in each category- \$20

Monetary awards can be substituted with credit for membership dues, as follows:

1st place in each category – three years of membership dues

2nd place in each category – two years of membership dues

3rd place in each category – one year of membership dues

*Note: APS will not claim ownership of submitted photographs, however, by submitting photographs to the contest, the owner(s) agrees to allow publication of the pictures in the APS web site, bulletin, and/or newsletter.



Ashland to Mt McLoughlin *Phlox diffusa* G Maffitt

Oregon in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

Our headquarters will be the Red Lion Inn in Medford, Oregon, which is intermediate between the two trips we'll be taking. They are offering us excellent room prices (your option) and a large, elegant banquet room for our meetings on Friday and Saturday nights. On Friday night, after the banquet, we will have local plant photography expert, Norm Jensen, speaking on special flora of the Siskiyou Mountains. I will present identification points and photos of each of the Penstemons to be seen. Saturday will feature an expert of the relationship between the geology and flora of the area and our annual business meeting.

The group will divide in half daily for each tour. If anyone is interested in continuing over to the coast (less than 30 miles away) after the Bear Camp day, they should sign up for the Sunday tour as there won't be an evening meeting. Bear Camp is west of Grant's Pass (which is about 20

miles north of Medford) on a lovely drive past the undammed Rogue River, large coniferous forests, steep mountains and many floral stops. It is a 5000 acre botanical area removed from logging and described

2011 AMERICAN PENSTEMON ANNUAL MEETING AND TOUR SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS AND MEDFORD, OREGON

Because they form the most ancient part of Oregon and contain serpentine rock (which dwarfs plants with its toxin), the Siskiyou Mountains have had plenty of time to develop the most rare and abundant plant forms as well. Join the American Penstemon Society for its 46th Annual Meeting with guided tours into the mountains over two days. Save July 8, 9 and 10 on your calendar, but consider also spending your vacation in this fascinating area.

Besides the flora and fauna of the mountains, there is the world-famous Ashland Shakespearean Festival, the Jacksonville Britt Music Festival, the blue-ribbon cheese factory in Central Point, Oregon Caves National Monument, the outlet store/headquarters of Harry and David in Medford featuring local pears and apples, jet-boat rides on the Rogue River and the lonely stretches of southern Oregon beaches.

Highway 101 travels hundreds of feet above sea level giving wonderful views of the huge sea-stacks (think nesting seabirds) and aquamarine ocean. There is deep-sea fishing leaving daily from Gold Beach. Watch for Val Myrick's article on this and other attractions of southwest



Penstemon davidsonii var *menziesii* G. Moffitt

by local botanists as “interesting, diverse and locally unique”. Ranging from 3000-5000' elevation, it features at least 6 penstemon species (*anguineus*, *cardwellii*, *azureus*, *deustus*, *parvulus*, *rupicola* in close proximity), five species of *Ribes* (gooseberry) the rare Alaska yellow-cedar and other rarities. The road is paved until we reach the secondary forest road which is well-graded gravel.

The other tour begins nearly at the California border south of Ashland with road elevations between 7000-8000'. As the road leaves Interstate 5, we'll quickly see *P. deustus* (pink and white!), *speciosus* and *anguineus*. Driving just past the ski area, is a picnic area with a meadow of *P. parvulus* which looks south to snow-packed 14,479' Mt. Shasta. Uphill across the road is a wet meadow with a huge variety of forbs. We'll be able to drive to the top of Mt. Ashland and see large patches of purple *P. davidsonii*, with a rumored white variant in the area! When you register for the trip, you'll receive a copy prepared by the local native plant society with color pictures of 80 species (and map) to be seen on the drive to Dutchman Peak and Observation Peak. The road is graveled after this point, but fairly well-graded. The last nine miles to Dutchman are more rugged, driving on native rock with steep drop-offs. A 15- passenger van (like that on last year's Craig, CO trip) driven by Dwayne Dickerson, will be available for a daily fee both Saturday and Sunday for this tour.

In addition to native iris, lilies, buckwheat, nothechelone (a pre-penstemon), a huge meadow of pink pussy-toes and others forbs too numerous to list, there will also be large blooming white California lilac (*ceanothus*) and manzanita (*arctostaphylos*) shrubs in abundance. Dutchman's Peak features an ankle-high carpet of high alpine treasures, which should mostly be blooming in July. After continuing on to Observation Peak and Cow Creek Glade (a large wetland with orchids), we'll return by a loop road into historic Jacksonville (of gold-mining fame and intact original buildings) and Medford.

Registration applications with fees, tour day choices and dinner selections will come to you the first week of January with applications beginning Jan. 10. At this point, we hope not to close registration, but an overwhelming response may make that happen. These are graveled roads with few pull-outs so we'll stagger morning departures of groups. **WE** do not want to trample these pristine areas.

Watch for a wonderful article about this marvelous area by Roy Lancaster in the winter APS Bulletin. Most of the places I've mentioned will have information online if you search a bit. There are also books on the area which we'll suggest in the registration (best of all, “Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest” by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson, Timber Press).

Louise Parsons, Val and Jack Myrick, Norm Jensen and myself have scouted this area on the same weekend in 2008 and 2009 and found the weather mostly sunny and very comfortable! We look forward to seeing you July 8, 9 and 10 in the Siskiyou!

Ginny Maffitt (maffitt@frontier.com)

SEED EXCHANGE

Now is a good time to put in order those seeds we collected. When they are all cleaned and packaged, send them to Louise Parsons, 1915 SE Stone Street, Corvallis, OR US 97333, 541-752-7515, parson@peak.org.

ROBIN LETTER FROM NORWAY

Kari Wang, Norway

Dear Robin Friends,

It has taken quite some time to get the Robin around this time, not least because when I got the Robin I sent it on, as I had not much to report. Now it is October, and I can report from my garden this year.

We had a long, and very cold winter, but fortunately a good snow cover, so more plants survived than expected. As spring was cold and dry, it turned out that evergreen plants were very affected by the cold, and many plants died during May, although they looked very good when the snow left. The Penstemons looked alright, and most of them flowered well, but not optimally. The usual ones, *P. whippleanus* and *serrulatus* did not seem to have suffered at all. *Penstemon pinifolius* produced a few flowers, but developed nicely during the summer and is twice the size it was at the beginning of May, so I am hoping it is going to produce plenty of flowers next year. *P. rupicola* flowered very well. Ingemar, I am sorry to report THAT I have not taken any photos. I thought I had, but when I went through my pictures, no *P. rupicola*. A second plant of *P. rupicola* has been planted out on top of my "Chinese Wall", the retaining wall below the house. It was planted out last year and has survived well, but did not start growing until the middle of the summer, maybe because of the drought. *Penstemon globosus* flowered again this year. It is still trying to take up more space than I am willing to give, so I keep cutting it back after flowering. *Penstemon buckleyii* is still with me and flowered again, but I was away when it happened, so I only saw the seedheads.

Due to the cold spring, flowering of the various species was different from what I am used to. The two penstemons in the frame, *P. debilis* and *P. caryi* survived, just, but they did not flower at all. The friend who gave them to me grows them outside, but his garden is more sheltered than mine, so I have not dared put them outside yet. I have lost *P. caryi* before outside. Very little germination on seed sown in the winter, but I have planted out *P. barrettiae*. *Penstemon oliganthus* was planted in a large pot that can hold water in the bottom for some time, I do not remember what you call those pots. *Self-Watering?*, Ed. I put the seedlings in there because I read that they do not like too dry conditions. I am planning to overwinter the pot in the cellar, together with a large plant of a hybrid I bought to decorate outside. It had no name tag on it, but it is red with a white throat and I am sure it is not hardy outside. *Penstemon attenuatus* has decided it wants to stay with me and flowered really well in June. The last penstemon on my list is *P. fruticosus alba*. It is growing nicely but has not produced flowers yet. The *P. fruticosus* planted on the retaining wall of my neighbor across the road flowered very well this year; it originally came from me.

Since the middle of July we have had very wet weather, and colder than usual. We have what I call "Monsoon" weather. Fortunately I am living on a steep slope, so there is no water logging, but many of the plants in the garden look decidedly drab with all this rain. What is most surprising is that the autumn crocuses are doing quite well, and flowering well, and to my great surprise and joy, *Crocus banaticus*, which is sometimes called *C. Iridiflorus* (Bulgarian), is beginning to seed itself, so I find seedlings here and there, in flower. I do not discover them until they flower, because the leaves look just like any other crocus. (ed note: Autumn Crocus or genus *Colchicum* has species that bloom in autumn -- see: <http://www.frenchgardening.com/inprofile.html?pid=3086063373189671>)

What else is there to report. Several interesting things, like the weather we had in the south of France in February. We came to Nice in brilliant sunshine, and it lasted several days, then we got an ominous weather forecast, snow or sleet the next day. And did it snow, we got 18 cm of heavy, wet snow, which is unheard of so close to the Mediterranean. It started in the middle of the morning when everybody had gone to work in their cars, but to get back home was either

very difficult or just impossible. There were cars parked everywhere because people just left them when they realized they could not get home. More worrisome was the amount of heavy snow on the trees, the pines in particular and the mimosas.



Hundreds of pines just keeled over, or large branches broke off and fell on the road, luckily not many hitting people or cars. Traffic was more or less impossible for 24 hours. The mimosas were just beginning to flower and many of them split in the middle as they couldn't take the weight of the snow. I was out in the garden twice, with a large broom, to try and save ours, and happily the snow stopped by 1400 hours, but by then many trees were already damaged. In the night we had minus 4 degrees C, so the snow on the roads froze and caused more problems. We did not drive the car for 5 days; we walked to the shops for the food we needed, but the French are not used to not being able to drive to the shops, so many had great problems.

At the end of May we drove to Nice from Oslo, going by boat Oslo/Kiel, and we had an enjoyable trip through Europe. I had decided we should stay in a small village in Switzerland, Splügen, as I had previously seen a plant on the rock wall going down from the St. Bernadino tunnel to Lugano, and I wanted to find out if we could get to the place where I had seen the plants. It turned out that that was not possible, so instead we visited the Splügen Pass, which was the old pass between Italy and Switzerland. Plantwise that was a revelation. Going up we saw lots of beautiful *Viola dubyana*, which is as large as *Viola cornuta* and deep violet.

Higher up the roadside where it was not covered in snow, were hundreds of *Crocus vernus* v. *albiflorus* and *Soldanella alpina*. When we got to the other side of the pass, out in a large field, still partly covered in snow, there was an enormous boulder with *Primula hirsuta* covering one side, fantastic! Here also grew *Primula integrifolia* and a small spring gentian, I'm not sure which.

The week after, we visited a small village "behind" Grasse, and there on the rock walls going up to the village were at least 50 plants of a bellflower, growing vertically in the rock and in full flower. I later identified it as *Campanula rotundifolia* ssp. *carnica*, but I have now been told it is *C. fritschii*. We went further up the road to a large plateau called Plateau de Caussols, where we could enjoy hundreds of *Daphne alpina*, their scent all around us all the time we were there.

The rest of the summer we spent here in Norway, but went back to Vence in September and had some enjoyable walks in the mountains and hills, which you can see on the one picture. These hills are called Baous, and they go up to 800 m. In spring we go there to look at *Crocus versicolor*, which is endemic to the area, and in the autumn we find thousands of *Colchicum multiflorum*, which is found here and a few places in Italy.

Mike. Congratulations on your new job in Utah. I have visited several of the American states, but none has impressed me as much as Utah. We found the scenery breathtaking and the plants very good also. Sorry to hear about the Pine Beetle epidemic. We have something similar in Norway, but it attacks spruces and not pine. In many places special sort of traps are set up, giving off female beetle pheromones to attract the male beetle and kill them. It is several years now since the last epidemic.

Jill. I'm sending this to you as Ingemar and Gunne-Bert have already had it this summer. Your garden must be lovely, but I fear lots, and lots of work. Hope you had a good summer for garden visits again.

I have got a new computer. Our sons decided that mum's computer from 1990 was ready for the scrap heap, but I find it rather difficult to get used to a new one, so if I make mistakes, bear over with me. All the best to everyone.
Kari Wang, Norway

This concludes this rendition the newsletter. Winter well! The newsletter can always use some material, so please send thoughts, wishes and photos to Mike Evans at iroxranh@yahoo.com.

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

President: Bob McFarlane, denverbob@aol.com
Vice President: Val Myrick, vkmyrick@pacbell.net
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Finance –Auditor: Ed Godleski, e.godleski@csuohio.edu
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Director, Seed Ex. Louise Parsons, parsonst@peak.org
Registrar of Cultivars and Hybrids Dr. Dale Lindgren, dlindgren1@uni.edu
Nominating Comm. Chair: Libby Wheeler, glwheel@prodigy.net
Librarian: Dr. Stephen Love, slove@uidaho.edu
Custodian of Slide Collection: Dr. Dale Lindgren, dlindgren1@uni.edu
Website Admin.: Hugh MacMillan, humanator@yahoo.com
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The American Penstemon Society involves almost 400 penstemon aficionados world-wide, many of whom will enjoy meeting and traveling to the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon and northern California in July of 2011 and the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming in the summer of 2012. Dues include our newsletter (distributed by e-mail or snail mail as you prefer), annual bulletin, and the annual seed exchange. Dues run on a calendar basis, renewed at the first of each year.

US and Canadian dues \$15 US; Elsewhere \$20 US. Dues for students are \$5. Life Membership is \$150. In addition, members may pay two years in advance and receive the third year free. Please do not send cash.

You may pay either by check or by PayPal on our website at www.apsdev.org. Make checks payable to American Penstemon Society.

Mail 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, they can be reached at aps.membership@yahoo.com. Please update any current info with new phone numbers or e-mail addresses. Thanks for your enthusiastic support of the Society

Name- _____

Address- _____

Phone #- _____

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