

# AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 5, Issue No. 1

apsdev.org

January, 2011



*Penstemon rupicola* G. Maffitt

## CONTENTS FOR THIS ISSUE

This issue of the newsletter finds us beginning the new year, well into winter, but with the days steadily lengthening. This issue details the new officers of the Society, we learn the details of special projects and how to become involved. In the cold and darkness of mid winter, we are treated to a plant portrait of a unique species of Penstemon. These articles will help us get into the mood for growing season.

The seed lists, both old and new, are also published on the APS webpage at:

[http://apsdev.org/aps/seed\\_exchange.html](http://apsdev.org/aps/seed_exchange.html)

The deadline for requesting seeds is March 1, 2011. Anyone with questions or needing help can contact Louise Parsons at <[parsonl@peak.org](mailto:parsonl@peak.org)> or 1915 SE Stone St., Corvallis, OR 97333-1832

All the best, Louise

Thanks to Julie Shapiro for passing along this interesting article about using native flora to vegetate a roof on a hospital near San Diago. [http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article\\_2c6e65d9-a3ea-5a55-8061-76eeea6ada0a.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article_2c6e65d9-a3ea-5a55-8061-76eeea6ada0a.html) Are any society members in southern California aware of this project? If so, could you perhaps share what you know, like how does it look? Is it growing and have you been in the building? Could be a future newsletter article. Sounds like a great way to conserve some energy and have a nice view.

A correction is in order. In the last issue the editor incorrectly identified California's Mt. Shasta as being in Oregon. My apologies to geographers in both states. Try to join the annual meeting field trips in Oregon and you are promised to have wonderful views of California and Oregon.

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### **Special Projects Grant Program: Please spread the word**

For the third year the American Penstemon Society (APS) will be funding one-year Special Projects with outcomes designed to be of use to members of the Society, to help protect endangered species of penstemons, and/or promote the understanding and appreciation of penstemons.

Any member of APS may submit a grant application and an individual or organization may join the Society in order to submit a grant.

Three to four grants are funded each year. Typically awards range from \$250-\$1,000.

All the material needed to submit a grant can be found on the APS website: [www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org). Click on "Special Projects Application". The materials also include a brief description of every Special Project funded over the last two years.

The success of this fledgling program depends on reaching people who might be interested in submitting a grant request. If each member reading this article will contact just five people, potentially your efforts will reach over 1,000 people. Your help will be much appreciated.

Barbara Lewis & Lynn Ackerman, co-chairs Special Projects



**Penstemon davidsonii G. Maffitt**

# American Penstemon Society

## Special Grants Program

### Call for ENTRIES

Applications Received March 1, 2011 – May 31, 2011

Awards Announced on or about June 1, 2011

Projects begin July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2012



*Penstemon azureus*

**SUBJECT** One-year grants to support projects of modest dimension that will enhance, expand or otherwise contribute to promoting the enjoyment and understanding of penstemons and/or help protect endangered Penstemon species

**AMOUNT** \$100-\$1,000

**ELIGIBILITY** All members of the American Penstemon Society  
You may join to enter @ \$15/year

**CONTACT** [www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org) Click on Special Projects (to be posted Oct 1)

Barbara Lewis [lewisorders@iriscolorado.com](mailto:lewisorders@iriscolorado.com)

Lynn Ackerman [LynnMAckerman@comcast.net](mailto:LynnMAckerman@comcast.net)

Please share this poster 🎵

**PLANT PORTRAIT  
PENSTEMON EXIMEUS**

**Bob McFarlane**



**P. eximeus in Denver Garden in June 2010. Photo by Dwayne Dickerson.**

This is the tallest penstemon in the genera. It has some similar features as *P. palmeri* and is in the Section Peltranthera, subsection Peltanthera. The only photo I had seen up to this year was one of someone holding the main stem way over his head - making the plant about seven feet tall. *P. eximeus* is native to the dry sandy arroyos of Baja California and has not been in cultivation in the States for very long.

The plants that I have seen are five to eight feet in height with two to four main stems and quite floriferous. The flowers are pinkish white with strong violet guidelines. The staminode is white and glabrous. There is a pleasant aroma to the flowers but it is not strong.

We first saw the plant outside the garden shop at Tohono Chul Park in Tucson. The plants were in both one and five gallon pots and quite striking in appearance. They were cultivated by Russ Buhrow, Curator of Plants at the gardens. He told us that someone had given him seed collected in Baja and he was able to germinate and raise plants from these quite easily. He told us that he hadn't had any problems with the low temperatures that are present in Tucson in winter but did have a little problem with root rot if they stayed damp too long.



**Phoebe standing by an eight foot *P. eximeus* in 5 gallon pot at Tohono Chul.**

We bought a couple of plants in the one gallon pots, brought them back to Denver and planted them in our garden in early March. The bed they were planted in was 1/3 sand, 1/3 grit and 1/3 soil. They grew rapidly and the lower temperatures, down to the low 20's, didn't seem to bother them at all. Neither plant reached seven feet in our garden the first year but both were about five feet and bloomed fairly heavily in early June.

This part of our garden got watered about once a week but we had no problems with rot, bugs or anything. The plants were quite hardy and vigorous in their development. Russ told us that they did have some problem with pollinators and seed production was lower than he would have liked. However, our two plants were constantly pollinated by bees and shown in the next photo.



**Bee pollinating *P. eximeus* in Denver garden. Photo by Dwayne Dickerson**

Later in the summer one of the plants up and died but left a wealth of seed. The other plant continued to be vigorous and had a second smaller blooming in October before our first freeze.

This is definitely not a plant for the front part of the garden but has beauty and interest to gardens where taller plants are tolerated. I have mulched the remaining plant with leaves and hope that it overwinters. We also plan to try and germinate more plants next year. This is a fun plant to grow and have in your garden.

## American Penstemon Society 2011 Annual Meeting

Dear American Penstemon Society member,

You are cordially invited to attend the APS 2011 Annual Meeting and excursions to tour parts of the Siskiyou Mountains of southeastern Oregon. Put these dates on your calendar: July 8, 9 and 10, Friday through Sunday. In two days, we will tour the Mt. Ashland loop and go to the environs of Bear Camp. On the Mt. Ashland loop, beginning near the ski area and traveling southwest past two small peaks almost to the California border, you will likely see six penstemon species. Several short hikes are available. Traveling up to 7000' over gravel roads, you will also see a dizzying array of other perennials and shrubs at their peak bloom. You'll be given a folder with 80 color photos of just some of the flowers to be seen. The Bear Camp drive goes about 30 miles west of Grant's Pass into the Coast Range, where we'll see 6-8 pent species, plus some plant rarities on an easy gravel road; several short hikes available. Choose to go here Sunday if you're planning to continue on to Gold Beach on the coast (another 30+ miles) Each day will average about 80 miles of stop-and-go driving. Check out the interesting speakers listed below and great meals together.

**BE SURE AND INDICATE IN THE REGISTRATION WHICH DAY YOU WISH TO GO TO BEAR CAMP. PLEASE, DON'T EVERYONE CHOOSE SUNDAY!!!**

**ALL TRIP INFORMATION (TRIP GUIDES, PLANT & READING LISTS), WILL COME TO YOU VIA EMAIL, UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED!!**

**Schedule: All meetings are at the Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Oregon.**

### **Friday, July 8,**

5-6 p.m. **Check in** at Red Lion Hotel main lobby at APS table; rendezvous with friends in bar nearby .

6 p.m. Siskiyou Room: no-host bar and plant sales tables open, dinner follows.

7 p.m. Speakers: Ginny Maffitt, "Identifying the Penstemons of Southeast Oregon"

Norm Jensen: "Endemics of the Siskiyou Mountains"

Carpool signups with subgroups for each guide

### **Saturday, July 9:**

7 am: With lunch and supplies, meet in the Red Lion rear parking lot. There will be two groups with destinations to either the Mt. Ashland loop or the Bear Camp trip. Guides with groups of cars will leave at five to ten minutes intervals (reducing congestion at the flower sites). A 15 passenger van, driven by Dwayne Dickerson (as he did in 2010) will go to Mt. Ashland both days.

6 p.m. Dinner in the banquet hall; sales tables and no-host bar open.

7 p.m. Speakers: Louise Parsons, Rockhound, : "The Mixed-up Geology of the Siskiyou Mountains"  
incoming President Val Myrick: annual business meeting, introduction of new officers.

### **Sunday: July 10:**

7 a.m.: Again, meet with lunches in hand in the rear parking lot, ready to tour the alternate trip. This is the last official function of the 2011 APS meeting. We planned it this way to accommodate those who need to leave promptly for home or those who wish to continue on from the Bear Camp trip to the Oregon coast.

Suggestions for pre- or post-tours will be provided in registration packets. There will also be a list of other activities you might wish to pursue while in this vacation hotspot) in a micro-website prepared by the Medford Visitors Bureau and re-read the November 2011 Newsletter.

Housing: Make your own reservations, please. A short list of Medford area accommodations will come in the **on-line registration packet** or check online listings. The Red Lion has excellent rooms which are being offered to us at great prices. The North American Rock Garden society has held several winter study weekends here, and attendees give high praise to the rooms, the in-house restaurant and the banquet facilities.

Room rates: Single: \$80.95 plus tax      Double: \$80.95 plus tax  
                  Triple: \$90.95 plus tax      Quadruple: \$100.95

Phone: 1-541-779-5811 and tell them **you are with the APS group in July** to get preferred rates.

Dinners with the group are optional, but we'd sure love to have you join us! These costs will be added to your registration fee to be sent in with your check. When you check in, you'll be given tickets for each meal you choose and/or the van ride.

**Friday Dinner:** Check one choice:

\*Tillamook Cheddar Chive Chicken

\*Medley, Roasted Vegetables in Pastry topped with feta cheese

\*Mustard-Crusted Pork Loin, with sage dressing, cinnamon apples

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 \_\_\_\_\_   
 \$24.33 includes 18% tip

**Saturday Harvest Buffet:** Choice of 3 entrees such as Char-grilled King Salmon, Sliced Tri-tip, forest mushroom sauce, Pork Loin, or Grilled Chicken Breast, plus Yukon Gold potatoes, NW veggie saute medley, spinach salad, cabbage slaw, raspberry sauce, dessert buffet; \$29.59 includes 18% tip.

**15-passenger van** (we'll book the driver & guide plus 12 passengers daily (for breathing space) driven by Dwayne to Mt. Ashland both days. We'll give you a 'bus' ticket at check-in. Cost: \$25.00.

**Registration per person: (not optional!)**

Cost: \$50.00

**Coordinator: Ginny Maffitt, Registrar, Dwayne Dickerson, Great Co-leaders: Louise Parsons and Val Myrick, and Mary Cunningham, Treasurer!!**

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## **SOUTHERN OREGON – MORE THAN PENSTEMONS** *Val Myrick, Sonora, California*

While penstemons will be our focus when we meet in Medford for the APS 2011 Annual Meeting, there are many other attractions we might want to take advantage of, coming to and going from this Southern Oregon city.



First and foremost, at least for me, is the 363 miles of rugged Oregon coast.

Beautiful ocean views, lighthouses, seafood, and lots of flora and fauna are there to be discovered.

Crater Lake, Oregon's only national park, is also at the top of my list. This special 1900 feet (add: foot) deep lake, the nation's deepest, can be reached via the Rogue---Umpqua National Scenic Byway out of Roseburg from I-5. Other routes also access it.

Ashland lies just south of Medford and is renowned for its Oregon Shakespeare Summer Festival. The town itself is quite charming. Lithia Park can be visited for a horticultural fix.



Jacksonville, the whole town a National Historic Landmark, is another picturesque village from the 1850 gold rush days. The summer Britt Festival offers the opportunity to attend concerts featuring a wide range of musical acts.

Who hasn't found Harry and David's catalog in their holiday mailbox? This gourmet fruit and confection company can be found right in Medford itself. Tours can be arranged as well as a visit to the big store for a Moose Munch treat.

Dozens of wineries along with many golf courses can be found in the valleys surrounding Medford. There are several museums as well.

For the lovers of speed and adventure, a jet boat trip up the Rogue River and Hellgate Canyon out of Grant's Pass might be just the thing. Long trips, short trips, with and without meals, can all be booked.

The beautiful marble Oregon Caves National Monument can be found 50 miles southwest of Grants Pass. The 1½-hour tour takes you through popcorn, moonmilk, stalactite, and stalagmite formations.

The craziest attraction of all is a bed and breakfast resort 25 miles southwest of the caves called Out 'n' About Treehouse Treesort. You can stay and play in the 10 tree houses that populate the compound.

As you can see, Oregon offers something for everyone. If you can spare the time, enhance your Medford visit with a few wonderful side trips.

**REGISTRATION: PRINT THIS DOCUMENT AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK TO:**

Dwayne Dickerson, Cherry Creek Capital Management  
600 South Cherry St., Suite 226, Denver CO 80346  
email: DwayneDickerson@gmail.com Office hours: M-F 6 a.m.-4 p.m.( MT), Phone, 1-800-889-8579

**NOTE: Registration deadline is May 1; meals changes can be made up to July 1.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I'll be a car-pool driver (passengers will chip-in gas money).**

**Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ or Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ to tour Bear Camp.**

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REGISTRATION FEE:	\$50.00
FRIDAY MEAL CHOICE: _____	\$24.33
SATURDAY BUFFET	\$29.59
VAN RIDE, MT. ASHLAND TOUR, 24 SEATS OPEN	\$25.00
YOUR TOTAL:	\$ _____

**PAYPAL AVAILABLE:** for overseas members, etc. Go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)> "**SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT**"; go to "**SEND MONEY**"; follow prompts to [APS.Treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:APS.Treasurer@yahoo.com) for payment destination. **The registration form still goes to Dwayne Dickerson's address.**

**You must be a paid-up 2011 member to register. You may send annual dues to Dale Lindgren 9302 Maloney Dr., North Platte, NE,69101: \$15 for U.S. & Canada; \$20—elsewhere; Special: \$30 for 3 years, U.S. & Canada. Students: \$5. Lifetime: \$150**

## Membership renewal

The American Penstemon Society involves almost 400 penstemon aficionados world-wide, many of whom will enjoy meeting other APS members 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 provide you with 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](http://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](mailto: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



*Penstemon comarrhenus* mevens

Name- \_\_\_\_\_

Address- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #- \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail- \_\_\_\_\_

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

Remember, if you plan on attending the exciting meetings in the Siskiyou Mountains this July, your membership needs to be up to date. Also, if you have changed your e-mail address lately, please send this information to the Membership Chairmen at [aps.membership@yahoo.com](mailto:aps.membership@yahoo.com). Thank you.

The Strickler's Christmas card came with this frightening, yet hopeful message concerning Dee's health. For new APS members, he is the author of the amazing book "Northwest Penstemons" as well as his "Roadside" series on alpines and other Western plants now sold in national park book stores. Ginny Maffitt

-----Original Message-----  
From: Claire Strickler  
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2011 2:22 PM  
To: ginny maffitt  
Subject: For the newsletter

On September 21, 2010, Dee Strickler was diagnosed with a malignant Stage IV brain tumor, after collapsing at an adult study at his church. On October 8 the tumor was removed at Kalispell Regional Medical Center using their new \$500,000 remotely controlled "Navigator" scalpel. He came home two days later! When his head was healed (Nov. 21) he started radiation therapy, also in Kalispell, and chemo in capsule form. He is through with this course of chemo and has only seven radiation treatments left. He is weak and very tired. Dee had no nausea, but the side effects of his many medications have been unpleasant and entailed two trips to the ER. His wife Claire feels qualified to apply for a Pharmacy Technician license after serving as his pill dispenser for 3 1/2 months! He is grateful that all this technology was in place only 15 miles from home. They are both grateful for the many prayers and messages of concern from friends. Their email address is: [idclaire@centurytel.net](mailto:idclaire@centurytel.net) if you would like to contact him.

Dee has ordered his seeds from the Exchange and is anxiously awaiting planting time!

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### **American Penstemon Officer List, 2011**

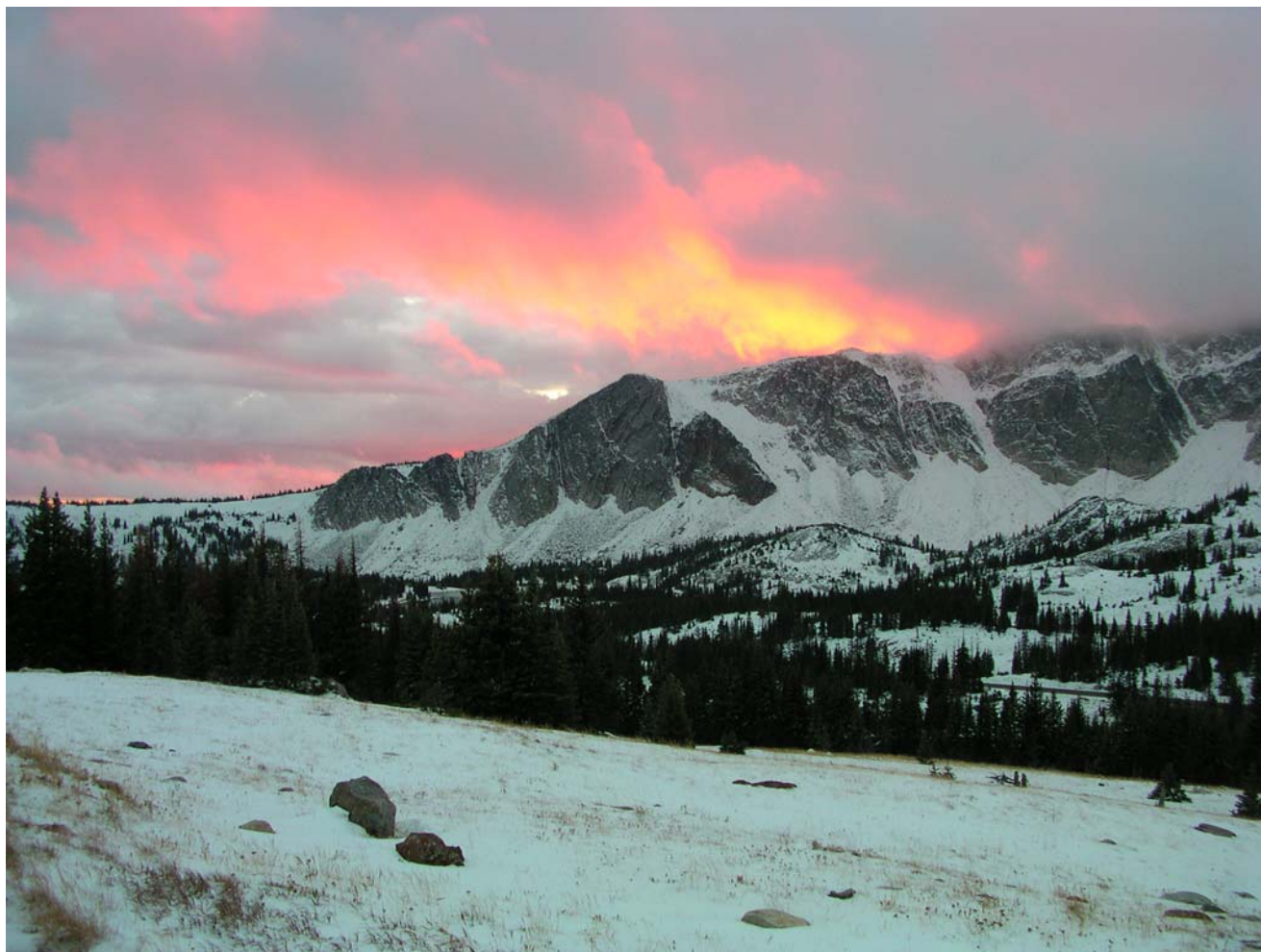
The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the APS Officers and Board Members for 2011 listed below. They represent eight different states and The Netherlands. We appreciate their willingness to serve and hope that the membership will help them out when asked.

President: Val Myrick [vkmyrick@pacbell.net](mailto:vkmyrick@pacbell.net)  
Vice President: Andrea Wolfe [wolfe.205@osu.edu](mailto:wolfe.205@osu.edu)  
Treasurer: Mary Cunningham [APS.Treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:APS.Treasurer@yahoo.com)  
Membership: Dale Lindgren and Phoebe McFarlane [APS.Membership@yahoo.com](mailto:APS.Membership@yahoo.com).  
Board Position 1: Libby Wheeler [glwheel@prodigy.net](mailto:glwheel@prodigy.net)  
Board Position 2: Eric Gouda [e.j.gouda@uu.nl](mailto:e.j.gouda@uu.nl)  
Board Position 3: Barbara Lewis [blewis@iriscolorado.com](mailto:blewis@iriscolorado.com)  
Seed Exchange: Louise Parsons [blewis@iriscolorado.com](mailto:blewis@iriscolorado.com)  
Bulletin: Steve Love [slove@uidaho.edu](mailto:slove@uidaho.edu)  
Website: Hugh MacMillan [humanator@yahoo.com](mailto:humanator@yahoo.com)  
Auditor: Ed Godleski [e.godleski@csuohio.edu](mailto:e.godleski@csuohio.edu)  
Nominating: Dallas and Sharon Boge [dalboge@juno.com](mailto:dalboge@juno.com)  
Special Projects: Barbara Lewis [blewis@iriscolorado.com](mailto:blewis@iriscolorado.com)  
Membership Marketing: Ginny Maffitt [maffitt@verizon.net](mailto:maffitt@verizon.net)  
Past President: Bob McFarlane [denverbob@aol.com](mailto:denverbob@aol.com)  
Historian: Dale Lindgren [dlindgren1@uni.edu](mailto:dlindgren1@uni.edu)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee – Libby Wheeler, Bob McFarlane and Val Myrick

## POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Robins Coordinator Ginny Maffitt, [maffitt@verizon.net](mailto:maffitt@verizon.net)  
Registrar of Cultivars and Hybrids Dr. Dale Lindgren, [dlindgren1@uni.edu](mailto:dlindgren1@uni.edu)  
Librarian: Dr. Stephen Love, [slove@uidaho.edu](mailto:slove@uidaho.edu)  
Custodian of Slid Collection: Dr. Dale Lindgren, [dlindgren1@uni.edu](mailto:dlindgren1@uni.edu)  
Newsletter: Mike Evans [iroxranch@yahoo.com](mailto:iroxranch@yahoo.com)



**Snowy Range, Southern Wyoming mevens**

**Hope you are all wintering well, have your seeds ordered, are making plans for the annual meeting and have a special project in mind. Happy Ground hog Day !!**

