

American Penstemon Society Newsletter, Vol 4, #1

2010 Meeting set for June 4, 5 and 6th in Craig Colorado

Moffat County and Northwestern Colorado is touted as “The Real West, the Land of Rugged Adventure and Rugged Landscapes” and it pretty much lives up to that claim. The public lands of the area offer a wide range of undeveloped habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna. From dry alkali flats to alpine high country with elevations approaching 10,000' the plant communities flaunt an amazing list of species. The area seems to be on the extreme range of many species from the south and north as well as endemics well adapted to one of the many niches available. The general harshness harbors surprising beauty and gentleness. You will be impressed by the history, from pre-European Native Americans, the Outlaw trails and hideouts and early ranching to today's energy developments and recreation opportunities.

(Editors note; A registration form is available at <http://apsdev.org/aps/meetings.html>.)

Journal notes and photos from a preliminary field trip taken June 4-6 2009. By Mike Kintgen

Northwest Colorado was at its finest this past June when The McFarlane's, Dwayne Dickerson, and I arrived June second to being scouting and planning for the 2010 conference in Craig, CO. Good winter snow pack and the best spring rains in decades made parts of Northwestern Colorado a wildflower spectacle.

Camping in Irish canyon just north of Browns Park we visited all of the areas planned for the 2010 conference. Most of the trips are located in the Brown's park area about 60 miles from Craig. One shorter trip is planned to a nearby reservoir for those that don't want a long trip. That being said of course the best sites and species are in the Brown's Park area.

US 40 and State Highway 318 into Browns Park

spectacular displays of wildflowers were all along the route into Brown's Park. *Eriogonum*, *Lupinus Castilleja*, *Penstemon fremontii* and other wildflowers grew in sizable numbers along US 40 between Craig and Maybell. Once turning off on to Highway 318 the slower pace allowed a more through inventory of wildflowers from the car window. Hillside of *Lupinus argenteus* and a scattering of deep blue *Penstemon fremontii* enlivened hills along the Yampa and Snake Rivers. Bright red *Castilleja cromosa* and yellow *Stenotus acaulis* add brighter notes here and there. A quick stop west of Sunbeam on the Westside of the Powder Wash allowed closer observation of the interesting flora that grows on some of the rocky sparsely vegetated knolls and hillside. *Townsendia incana*, *Arenaria(Eremonge) hookeri*, and *Wyethia scabra* in full bloom, great cushions of *Phlox hoodii* long finished blooming, *Lupinus argenteus*



Penstemon yampaensis

with extremely silvery leaves, *Opuntia polyacantha* in yellow and magenta and the interesting seed pods of *Androstegium breviflorum* made for a very worthwhile stop.

Further down the road a quick stop to check a waypoint I took two years ago for *Penstemon yampaensis* confirmed the same few plants were doing well and even spotted a few flowers. The *Eriogonum ovalifolium*, *Townsendia incana*, and *Arenaria hookeri* alongside were all in full bloom.

Approaching Brown's Park itself masses of *Sphaeralcea grossularifolia* made patches of peachy orange on hillsides of the whitish gray Brown's Park formation. Normally not a big fan of *Sphaeralcea* I was forced to stop and admire the spectacle. Moving on into Brown's Park proper the overlook for Vermillion falls provides the first large pullout for a caravan and opportunities to see *Oxytropis besseyi* and *Wyethia scabra* both set against the stark grayish white Brown's Park formation. On top of the knoll a few poor specimens of what is sometime referred to as *Eriogonum shockleyi* reside.

Turning on Moffat County Road 10N toward Irish Canyon *Greyia spinosa* and *Sphaeralcea grossularifolia* created quite a spectacle on the gently rolling hills. Irish Canyon itself is a rather interesting natural wonder in itself. Probably a fault rather than a water carved canyon both sandstone and Limestone are present in the canyon. The limestone offers an interesting flora that differs somewhat from the surrounding areas nice mats of *Petrophyton caespitosum*, beefy *Echinocereus triglociatus* are just two examples of plants found mainly on the limestone and not sandstone. Nice specimens of *Ephedra viridis*, and *Cercocarpus ledifolius* add to the beauty of the canyon.

Meeting up at the Irish canyon campground we were all delighted to find both *Penstemon pachyphyllus* v. *mucronatus* and *humilis* just feet away from where we were setting up camp for the next few days. Not bad for the first day which was wasn't focusing on flowers as much as the days to come.

The next day had us splitting up to cover two different routes that will be offered in 2010. Dwayne Dickerson did 318 back to the turn off for Moffat County Road 10 just west of Sunbeam and west on 10 to Douglass Mountain. County Road 10 offers some of the best displays of the *Penstemon pachyphyllus mucronatus*, *P. fremontii* and *P. yampaensis* that I have found. The specimens of *P. yampaensis* about 9.9 miles after the turn off Hwy318 are particularly nice along the south side of the road. Mixed in along the route are good displays of *Castilleja chromosa* and hybrids, *Astragalus spathulatus* and other interesting xeric flora.



P. scariosus v. *cyanomontanus*

Penstemon pachyphyllus v. *mucronatus* make an especially spectacular display on the bank just after crossing the Little Snake River. Continuing down the road toward the next *Penstemon* of interest are generally decent displays of *P. fremontii*, on the flat before climbing up Douglass Mountain on Douglass Mountain Boulevard. Don't let the name fool you it's a dirt road. Not far up the road is a sandstone outcrop on the north side of the road where *Penstemon*

scariosus v. *cyanomontanus* can be found. Presently it is known only in Moffat and Dagget counties of Colorado and Utah. Heading back down the Douglass Mountain Boulevard and continuing on Moffat county 10 to Road 34 several populations of *Eriogonum shockleyi* and one population of *Eriogonum tumulosum* can be found near the Gates of Ladore. *Eriogonum ovalifolium* is present as well in plain white, pale pink and yellow making for a trio of early blooming *Eriogonum* species. *Penstemon arenicola* makes it's only known Colorado appearance in a sand area just north of the road. This year it was in full bloom the first week of June.

Lookout Mountain and Moffat County 4

While Dwayne was off exploring and photographing the southern route Bob, Phoebe McFarlane and I were off exploring Moffat County Road 4 and Lookout Mountain. This route which crosses some of the driest but more colorful landscape seen, crosses into Wyoming several times and offers a chance to see several interesting plants not normally found in Colorado. Sadly there are no special penstemon that weren't seen elsewhere but the display were good.

Going north out of Irish canyon we did stop and visit the first spot I saw *Penstemon yampaensis*. The handfuls of plants here were in great shape this year and hopefully will be the same next year. It makes an interesting point that while I have never found more than twenty plants of *P. yampaensis* in anyone spot it seems to be rather wide spread through out Northwestern Moffat County.

After the first penstemon stop of the morning we headed north and east on Moffat county 63 to catch Moffat county road 4. Dropping down into the rather spectacular canyons of Canyon creek and Vermillion creek we found a few plants of acid yellow *Cleome lutea*. Another stop a few miles down the road a stop across the road from a junk yard reveled little of interest except *Eriogonum corymbosum*, *Abronia* and a scattering of *P. fremontii*.

Despite the normally dry and harsh landscape, plentiful moisture this year created a spectacle of wildflowers. *Stenotus acaulis*, *Xylorhiza venusta*, *Castilleja* and various *Astragalus* are just a sampling of the flowers seen from the car. A bright white *Astragalus* did cause us to stop. Closer inspection leads us to believe that it was *Astragalus nelsonianus* a rather rare species in Colorado but more common in Wyoming. Nice specimens of *Astragalus bisiculatus*, *Lupinus argenteus* and *Lupinus pusilus* were added interest. Pushing on toward our destination we made one last "unplanned" stop for the impressive cushions of *Astragalus spathulatus* on road bank. Looking back to the west gave a picturesque view of where we had been. Turning onto Moffat county road 68 the long ridge up to Lookout Mountain gave the impression that we would never make the summit. Passing a bright magenta colony of a different *Astragalus* we gradually climbed elevation on the broad gentle ridge. We would check out the *Astragalus* on the way back down. Masses of *Stenotus acaulis*, *Penstemon humilus*, pink *Phlox longifolia* and *Castilleja* hybrids in shades of red, orange, peach and yellow made for a pleasant drive up the mountain. Climbing ever higher to the summit a tall blue *Mertensia* that might be *oblongifolia* caught my attention from the car. Nearing the summit the views went from great to amazing, proving that Lookout Mountain was indeed well named. Once on top a microwave station and several acres of cushion and bun plant community greeted us. Cushions of bright purple *Astragalus spathulataus*, white *Phlox muscoides* (*byroides*), yellow *Stenotus acualis*, off white *Crypthantha* (*Oreocarya*) *caespitosa* were intermixed with bright blue *Penstemon pachyphyllus mucronatus*,

palest pink *Erigeron compactus* and pure white *Oxytropis sericea*. Turning our attention back to the view almost all of Moffat county and high mountains in several counties in both Colorado and Wyoming were visible. Returning back down we stopped to inspect the *Astragalus* which proved to be *Astragalus detritalis* endemic to the Uinta basin of Utah and two counties in Colorado.

Returning to camp we meet up with Dwayne and shared stories and photos of the day's adventures. Lookout Mountain had been uncharted territory as none of us had been up there. It would prove to be the most spectacular location on the trip for sheer volume of wildflowers. Possibly the most interesting find of the trip however lay ahead the next day.

Diamond Peak

The next morning dawning warmer and drier (It had poured the day before we arrived so the ground was wet) than the first found everyone excited to go up Diamond Mt. Mike Evans and his wife Joyce, from Saratoga, Wyoming had joined us over the night. I had considered Diamond Mountain the wildflower hotspot of Northwestern Moffat County until the drive up Lookout Mt. Still Diamond Mountain has much to offer that doesn't seem to be found on neighboring peaks. The biggest draw for everyone were the acres of *Arctostaphylos patula* but the great displays of *Tetranneuris acaulis*, *Lesquerella alpina*, *Astragalus spathulatus*, giant *Pediocactus simpsonii* and other low growing plants in full bloom were a crowd pleaser as well. The population of *Penstemon yampaensis* at the highest elevation we know of, was also visited on the way up. *Eriogonum heracleoides* and *Eriogonum umbellatum* just starting to send up their flower scapes were also observed. The rough jeep roads up Diamond Mountain allow rather easy access to all the flora wealth in a high clearance vehicle. Parking for lunch allowed everyone to explore at their own pace. Having visited the mountain three times previously I headed for the rather unpromising summit covered in thick forest of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* v. *latifolia*) not normally a promising habitat for interesting plants except *Cypripedium fasciculatum* a native lady slipper orchid. While I didn't find the orchid I did find a small penstemon that doesn't quite match the descriptions of any listed Moffat County. More about this find at a later date. Excited with the find I headed back to meet everyone and have lunch. Having an open afternoon and feeling that we had exhausted our possibilities on Diamond Mt we head back down through Irish canyon and into Browns Park to the *Penstemon arenicola* site. I had been trying to find *Penstemon arenicola* for several seasons and as usual it was only about



Penstemon eriantheris v. *clerburnie*

300 feet off the road in view of a spot I had stood many times. Luckily both the McFarlanes and Mike Evans knew where it was. Saying goodbye to Dwayne and the Evans we head on towards Gates of Ladore to look for *Eriogonum tumulosum*. After some figuring out on the map where the *Eriogonum tumulosum* specimen had been collected I was pretty sure I could find it on the ridge above the parking area for Gates of Ladore. Phoebe and Bob choose to do the nice nature trail which leads to a scenic lookout to the Gates of Ladore.

Finding *Eriogonum tumulosum* rather quickly, allowed me to catch up to Bob and Phoebe on the return part of the hike and see several Pink *Calcocohortus nuttallii*. White is the more usual color met with in Colorado

although entire pink populations are reported to reside near Grand Junction.

Rather pleased at finding *Penstemon arenicola*, *Eriogonum tumulosum* and the interesting *Penstemon* on Diamond Mountain we returned to camp and prepared for the next day which would hopefully take us into Utah and Wyoming to see *Penstemon acaulis*.

Morning dawned clear and dry despite the rain and wind that had threatened the night before. Packing up camp quickly I was especially excited to see *P. acaulis* in real life. I had seen *P. yampaensis* many times. But this would be the first for *P. acaulis*. Passing through beautiful landscapes full of wildflowers we stopped only once or twice and found little of note besides beautiful specimens of the most common wildflowers seen in Brown's park area.

Winding our way over Flaming Gorge Dam and over the shoulders of the Uintahs brought us to the town of Manila on the western side of the Reservoir. Bob stopped to examine his site for *Penstemon acaulis* just south of the Utah Wyoming state line. The plants were in good shape due to the good rain and lack of semi-trucks that had parked in the area previously. Pressing ever closer to Mike's *P. acaulis* site we crossed into Wyoming and almost immediately turned right on to a dirt county road. Crossing the cattle guard to be out of traffic we stopped in wonder at the bright blue cushions spread across the landscape. Mike Evans had described it as if someone had thrown bright blue frisbees or saucers across the ground, a very accurate description [Ed. note: Bonnie Heidel of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYND) led The Wyoming Native Plant Society to the *P.*



P. acaulis

acaulis site, the week before] Lavender *Penstemon eriantheris* subsp. *clerburni* added a touch of lavender to the bright blue of *P. acaulis*, the purple *Astragalus spathulataus* and yellow *Stenotus acaulis*. Well worth the long drive from Brown's Park it proved a definite highlight to a great trip. Saying good by to the McFarlanes I returned the way we had come, passing through Brown's Park one last time. Betting on my good luck I stopped at a site within the park just a few miles east of the Utah Colorado state line, to try and find *Penstemon gibbensii*. Luck was once again in my favor and I was able to find nearly fifty plants not yet budded up for flowers but starting to send up spikes. A few weeks promised what should have been a nice display. Heading back to Steamboat Springs, to meet up with my parents, I bypassed a few areas of interest. Not wanting to press my luck, and it was getting late in the day, and the good fortune we had on the trip in finding plants was amazing. 2010 promises to be an interesting meeting with great *Penstemon*, *Eriogonum* and nice scenery even if it is a dry year. I hope you can join us in Northwestern Colorado.

Penstemon seen on the trip June 3-6, 2009

Penstemon acaulis

Penstemon arenicola

Penstemon eriantheris v. *clerburnie*

Penstemon fremontii
Penstemon gibbensii (vegetative)
Penstemon humilus
Penstemon pachyphylus v. *mucronatus*
P. scariosus v. *cyanomontanus*
Penstemon yampaensis
Penstemon sp on Diamond Mountain (vegetative)

Penstemon seen on a later trip July 5 to Diamond Mountain

Penstemon watsonii
Penstemon strictus
Penstemon procerus
Penstemon sp in full bloom on Diamond Mt

Penstemon reported from Moffat county but not seen

Penstemon albidus
Penstemon angustifolius v. *vernalensis*
Penstemon caespitosus
Penstemon radicosus



Schedule of Events:

Friday June 4

Board Meeting??
6-9PM Welcome event
Light snacks
Presentation by Mike Kintgen on what people will see.
At The Center of Craig, 601 Yampa Ave, downtown Craig.

Saturday June 5

Longer field trips
All field trips to Browns Park leave by 7:30AM
No evening program

Sunday June 6th

Shorter field trips
All field trips to Brown's Park leave by 7:30AM
Banquet and evening program at 6:30PM at Center of Craig , 601 Yampa Ave in downtown Craig.

Monday June 7th

Open garden at mike Kintgen's garden north of Steamboat Springs
10 AM- 4PM

Opening Friday evening event and Sunday night banquet are at the Center of Craig, 601 Yampa Ave. <http://204.133.123.251/index.php?id=72>

Getting to, and where to stay for the Northwest Colorado 2010 American Penstemon Society Meeting

Motels



www.candlewoodsuites.com

We are using the **Candlewood Suites**.

http://www.candlewoodsuites.com/h/d/cw/1/en/hotelsearchresults?_requestid=21760

They have given us a group discount

92 Commerce Street Craig, CO 81625

-This hotel has 76 rooms so should fit our group nicely

- The hotel was built in 2008

-Info on booking to follow in email and on website.

Bob and Phoebe McFarlane also recommend

Deer Park Best Western

<http://www.bestwesterncolorado.com/craig-hotels>

Visit <http://www.moffatcountytourism.com/> or call 1.866.332.8436 toll free, for more information about Northwest Colorado.

Nearest airport

Yampa Valley Regional Airport

In Hayden, CO about 30 miles east of Craig

Website: <http://www.co.routt.co.us/sections.php?op=listarticles&secid=12>

*Service from Denver International Airport in summer

* Important note fewer flights during non-ski season (April- Nov)

Nearest International Airports:

Denver International Airport

220 Miles

4 hours

Salt Lake City International Airport

293 miles

4 hrs 53 minutes

Car rental:

See below for Yampa Valley Regional Airport

All major car rental companies operate out of DIA(Denver International Airport)

Yampa Valley Regional Airport

Van / Shuttle Bus Ride Share Transportation services are available at YVRA, during the ski season (December 14 - April 6) and by reservation at other times. Reservations are not required for GO Alpine during the ski season, but are highly recommended.

GO Alpine - Airport Shuttle

For current rates please use the following link to GO Alpine,

www.alpinetaxi.com

Or call 800-343-7433 or 970-879-2800

Storm Mountain Express---->PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

[Storm Mountain Express Home](#)

Or call 970-879-1963

Rental Cars

Rental Cars are available at YVRA year round in the Terminal. Reservations are highly recommended.

On-Airport

Avis--1-800-331-1212 or Local-970-2764377

[Avis Rent-A-Car Home](#)

Hertz-- 1-800-654-3131 or Local-970-276-3304

[Hertz Rent-A-Car Home](#)

Budget--1-800-527-0700 or Local-970-276-2086

[Budget Rent-A-Car Home](#)

Off-Airport

Enterprise--1-800-261-7331 or Local--1-970-826-0808

[Enterprise Rent-A-Car Home](#)

Steamboat Motors-1-970-879-7424

[Steamboat Motors Rental Cars](#)

Brief bits of information of interest to all:

Special Project Grants: Submit Now!

Tell your friends!

Would you like a little extra money to try out that penstemon project you've been thinking about for years? Maybe this is the year to do it! Grants range from \$100-\$800.

While most people associate grants with academia, we are hoping that our applicants will include a broader range of people – the home gardener, Extension Service employees, those who work in public gardens, and horticulturalists everywhere.

Application materials will be published on our website: www.apsdev.org on or about October 1. Entries open January 1 and close March 31.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us.

Barbara Lewis lewisorders@iriscolorado.com

Lynn Ackerman lynnmackerman@comcast.new

**A Wealth of Information About Germination Is Easy to Find on the APS Website,
by Barbara Lewis**

Hugh MacMillan and I have just arranged to make a wealth of information on germination accessible on our website (www.apsdev.org) . After clicking on "Enter Our World" click on the main tab entitled "Propagation," then click on "From Seeds." There you will find helpful hints from several members. And if you would like to add your ideas, use the website's Blog.

Special Projects: Six-month Reports Summary. By Barbara Lewis and Lynn Ackerman
APS has received reports from two of the three people awarded grants. Each of the two is well “on course.” Strong work and congratulations to you both! Various issues have created a delay in the submission of a report from the third recipient.

Name of Project: Penstemons in the Home Garden Demonstration
Person/Group: Whiney Rooney, The Arboretum at Flagstaff
Objective: To create a permanent and ongoing garden display by planting a demonstration garden and creating a large informational sign.
Progress: Seedlings ready and planting will occur in late May and into June. Significant progress made on the sign.

Name of Project: Graham’s Penstemon Habitat Preservation Project
Person/Group Andrea West, Center for Native Ecosystems
Objective: Establishment of formally protected areas to preserve remaining Graham’s penstemon populations and habitat by helping support a staff position.
Progress:
June and July: Submitted formal comments to the BLM office in Vernal Field Office on the Seep Ridge Road Paving Project Environmental Assessment. These comments “urged reconsideration of this project which would destroy *Penstemon grahamii* plants.” In addition related publicity was achieved.
August: Attention to “our pending challenge to the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s unsubstantiated decision to withdraw Graham’s penstemon from the Endangered Species Act Candidate List..”
August: “Collaboration with Wild Utah Project to investigate which grazing allotments (including habitat for *Penstemon grahamii*) were renewed without proper environmental review.”
September-November: Engaged in formal talks with BLM regarding their Resource Management Plan ((RMP) with result, “BLM announced it will now prohibit all surface disturbance plus a 300 foot buffer to any sensitive plant species in the areas managed by the Field Office (including *P. grahamii*).” Revisions to that plan could occur, but at the moment it is a victory.

Several updates on our APS website.

1. Germination - the page under propagation > seeds has several links added. One is to the aps blog with search results for the term 'germination' - you will see four posts referenced. There is also a link to Bob McFarlane's article about germination and the new hoop house.
2. Mexico Trip - the Annual Trip page under the APS tab has a link to Gerald's article he contributed for the bulletin.
3. The hoop house and Mexico trip articles are also saved off as pdf files and accessible in our library at <http://apsdev.org/library/references.php> - all one has to do is search on content, title, or author name to find the articles.
4. Follow APS on Facebook. We now have a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Penstemon-Society/212411169062?v=wall>
5. Frequent updates are being added to the website on the annual meeting page for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Craig, CO. Visit this page often.

regards,
Hugh
American Penstemon Society Webmaster

Ed's note; I would like to include one or two robin letters in each issue of the newsletter. The first of which is a nice one from Jill Pitman of Portland, Dorset, UK.

PORTLAND PONDERINGS

APS ROBINS :August 2009

What super letters from everyone, and photographs. Peter and I bought a digital camera yesterday and so hope eventually to get a few pictures included in future Robins 'hot off the press' .

We have had a very good garden opening year and the Penstemon have really come into their own after being dug up and replanted. In April when I cut them down I took lots of cuttings, too many in fact, we/I had every spare table and bench full of trays with 15 pots in each tray and 19 trays at the last count, luckily we have had the garden open since then and quite a few have found other homes. Holding a National Collection does mean we should have at least two spares of each plant on the list.

I thought last week I would arrange those which are left into alphabetical order to make it easier to find one if anyone asks for something particular... I don't usually give up when I've decided to do something - but let's say I have come to a stop - trays of 'A's' and B's full up move on to C's and D's - then up pops an 'A' and the whole lot has to be moved forward to accommodate the 'find'. I did get down to the 'M's' but then gave up - several 'L's' appeared just when I thought I was winning - I haven't admitted defeat, but it's not far off...

On the 13 August we made a trip down to Devon to visit (and purchase) from Dick Fulcher who has the Agapanthus National Collection and also a nursery of mainly Southern Hemisphere beauties, and some Himalayans. As well as Agapanthus he also sells Watsonia, Moraea, Dieties, Hedychium and various species Gladiolus - I was in my element and we came away with lots of goodies, unfortunately Dick and his wife were away on the day we could go and we asked his friend Mark if we could buy a particular variegated Agapanthus, he said yes, of course, and so another treasure back to Mews Cottage - the following day the telephone rang - Dick to say the variegated was not for sale as he wants it for his display at next years Chelsea Flower Show - so somehow, we have to get it back to him, it was nearly a three hour trip so we have to put our thinking caps on.

On a lighter note the garden has made funds for several charities this year : just over £800.00 divided between : The National Gardens Scheme which supports various nursing charities mainly MacMillan Cancer Care, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Portland St John Ambulance New Hut Fund (their First World War Hut was falling down around them) so there has been funding raising all round Portland for them. We have since had a telephone call from the Red Cross - they would like a day opening next year for their funds - well it keeps us out of mischief!

The crevice bed was a spectacular success, the front of the border was planted with *P.serrulatus* in alternate crevices, the gaps in between were planted with various species from the APS seed, all well and good - success was in sight. Well we hadn't thought of the large Bay Tree across the path, what really happened was that the bay tree dragged the *P.serrulatus* up to 2'0" Tall at the bay tree end and the other end managed to grow at their own pace and not hampered by the bay tree. The species in between were dwarfed to such an extent that some of them disappeared altogether - poor little Roy Davidson did flower and could be seen when pulling the *serrulatus* apart and peering in. The *wislezinnii* shot up to over 3'0" and looked stunning, in fact we had a group from Norfolk NCCPG on a garden tour of Dorset visit and one of their members was about to help himself to a cutting of *wislezinnii* until Peter reminded him it was not a good idea to help himself because he would incur the wrath of the gardener - me!!!

Each crevice had three different species in it, the overall effect was very good but the *serrulatus* overshadowed all of them, what a stunning colour. After cutting the flower heads down there is enough seed to plant the whole of Dorset, in fact two nurseries have already had some. Peter and I did a slide show last Tuesday 9 August on Gardens Great and Small which we have visited over the years, and I gave away several packets of the seed at the end of the evening, so spreading the news about the APS and the seed at the same time.

When the *P.serrulatus* were cut down I couldn't resist taking off the cuttings, I used the polystyrene cups, filled with vermiculite and made wet with organic seaweed liquid diluted method. They have only been in the cups for less than three weeks and when I tugged on one it didn't move so I tipped them out and lo and behold the cups were full of roots, so they were potted up and there were 20 of them, so that is the next problem - who wants them - luckily there is always fund-raising going on for some organisation here in the Autumn.

One suggestion - would it be a good idea for each of the 'Robins' and the APS Committee members responsible for keeping the whole thing ticking over, to have each others e.mail addresses where applicable. Would it make the job of the Newsletter and Bulletin editors easier, and we could communicate better with each other. I realise that this may not be practical - but if you don't ask.....! Just a thought.

Jill Pitman
Portland UK
24 August 2009

Please do not neglect renewing your membership.

This concludes this issue of the APS Newsletter, enjoy your winter and stay warm. Please Send comments, articles, stories and desires to Mike Evans, iroxranch@yahoo.com. I am thinking the next issue will be some time in March, green grass for some of you.

Just a reminder, membership dues are due now, since the beginning of the New Year. BTW, Happy New Year! Also, be sure to check out the Society's Web Site often. Hugh Mac Millan works hard to insure there is new and interesting information posted all the time.
www.apsdev.org

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWALS

Sign me up –

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

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

US and Canadian dues \$15 US; Elsewhere \$20 US, no cash please.

Make checks payable to American Penstemon Society. Mail to:

Joan and Truel West, Membership Secretaries

1050 Camino Rancheros

Santa Fe, NM 87505

APS.Membership@yahoo.com

