

Siskiyou Summits

Late Summer 2020 Issue

***Published by the Siskiyou Chapter,
North American Rock Garden Society***

The Siskiyou Chapter board met on August 7 to plan the year ahead. All we can do is speculate, since our chapter's ability to meet in person indoors will depend on when a Covid vaccine will be available to protect us.

However, we do have fall events to look forward to, including:

September and November outdoor workshops on Tuesday afternoons. See pg. 2 for details.

A chapter-sponsored, socially distanced Fall Plant Sale to be held in October, date and location to be announced.



**MONKSHOOD FLOWER
IN DEADFALL
MEADOWS, MT. EDDY**



**BUMBLE BEE ON WILD
DELPHINIUM, MT.
ASHLAND BY LYNN
MCDONALD**



Fall Workshops

"Small Troughs Shaped with Plastic Pot Molds" on September 15th

"Onsite Rock Garden Design Using Boulders and Concrete" on November 10th

The Siskiyou Chapter will offer two hands-on, socially distanced workshops at outdoor locations this fall. **Maximum capacity is 12 people per workshop, so we will not publicize these events to the general public. RSVP to kmpyle2@yahoo.com.**

Tuesday afternoon, September 15, 1-4 p.m. at the home of Jean and Jim Buck in Eagle Point - Gail Klodzinski will teach us how to mold small hypertufa troughs using plastic pots as molds. Materials will be provided. Bring a small plastic pot or two to use for molding. Samples shown below right.

Tuesday afternoon November 10, 1-3 p.m. at Hilton Fuel in Central Point.

Leigh Blake will share design and techniques for shaping rock gardens in place with a combination of rocks and cement. See Leigh's dragon garden above.



Mt. Eddy and Kangaroo Lake Trip



In late July, Kelley and Pete Leonard and Kathy Pyle camped at Kangaroo Lake and explored the plants at the Pacific Crest Trailhead and Deadfall Meadows on Mt. Eddy. From our campsite high above the lake, we enjoyed a panoramic view of the lake and Klamath Mtn. subranges to the north. Kangaroo Lake is a cirque carved into gabbros surrounded by serpentinite formations, thus the many fens in the area populated by darlingtonia, gentians, bog orchids and *Lilium pardalinum* in the summer. Rock gardens on the south side of the lake provide niches for penstemons, alliums, erigonums, and lewisia by mid June. You can also spot the rare Scott Mountain phacelia along the fen trail if you visit early enough.



Mt. Eddy and China Mountain lie to the southeast of Kangaroo Lake. Mt. Eddy is the sister peak of Mount Shasta, which towers on the other side of I-5. Shasta is a Cascadian stratovolcano still semi-active while Mt. Eddy was birthed by the twists and turns of the Klamath Range as it uplifted from the subduction of an offshore plate against the Pacific Coast. Eddy is ultramafic (shaped from the ocean floor) but granitic areas such as the PCT trailhead are also visible and host wonderful plants.





It isn't necessary to climb breathlessly to Mt. Eddy's flat-ridge summit to enjoy the great diversity of plants, but if you hike up early enough, you may catch sight of the Mt. Eddy sky pilot (polemonium) as the snow melts, and later, the special Trinity buckwheat (*Eriogonum alpinum*). Kelley and I stuck to the meadows and trailheads (at about 7,000 ft. elevation) to observe pollinators visiting ipomopsis, monardella and buckwheats among the ponderosas and gnarled foxtail pines.

I have plant lists for both Mt. Eddy and Kangaroo Lake if you are planning a trip next year. Definitely two of the top wild rock garden destinations in Siskiyou County.

