

Summary of American Penstemon Society Meetings

(Prepared by Dale Lindgren, North Platte, Nebraska – APS Historian, February 12, 2010)

Regional American Penstemon Society Meetings

One of the major activities of the American Penstemon Society (APS) has been the annual meetings. For some members, attending APS meetings are the most important part of being involved in this organization.

The first organized APS meeting on record was in 1947 in Shenandoah, Iowa. It was a joint meeting of the Midwest Hemerocallis Society and the American Penstemon Society. This first meeting was considered a Midwest meeting, not a national meeting. “A crowd of about 5000 people attended mostly from neighboring states, though New York, Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Montana, Colorado and Texas were represented (BofAPS #4, p. 11). There were 8 vases of penstemons on display among them “Garnet”, “Firebird”, *P. barbatus*, and *P. tubaeiflorus*. Only about 75 people attended the Penstemon slide show by Ralph Bennett. The group later gathered in the large radio auditorium to hear Mrs. Fischer give her regular broadcast. Mrs. Helen Fischer was known as the “The Flower Lady” of the Mid West. Mrs. Fischer, who at that time was giving daily talks on gardening subjects over the radio from Shenandoah, Iowa, became interested in penstemon. She praised both penstemons and the Penstemon Society highly in her talks, and thus made them known to thousands of listeners in the Mid West. As a result, the membership in the society grew at an amazing rate especially in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska.” After this initial meeting in 1947, there were numerous Midwest Regional APS meetings starting in 1949 and continuing to 1991.

The Northwest Region of the APS began their annual meetings in 1955. The last Northwest meeting as recorded in the Bulletin of the APS was in 1992 but this meeting was listed as a Western Regional Meeting.

There were limited APS meetings in other regions as well. In 1957, an East Coast regional meeting was held in Portland, Maine but attendance was poor. From 1988 to 1991, there were Southwest Regional meetings. In 1992, there was a combined Northwest and Southwest APS meeting in Ely, Nevada.

National American Penstemon Society Meetings

The first (as advertized in the APS Bulletin) national APS meeting was held in 1958 in North Platte, Nebraska. After that, it was almost 30 years before the next national meeting was held in 1986 in Denver, Colorado. In 1987, Ellen Wilde hosted a national APS meeting in New Mexico.

There was a drought of national APS meetings until 1993 when an APS meeting was held in conjunction with the ARGS meeting in Denver. In 1994, the Society started having a separate APS National meeting which has continued until the present time. The national meeting was held outside the United States twice, in England in 2000 and in northern Mexico in 2009.

There have been some general, gradual changes in the APS meetings since the early meetings in the 1950's. These changes include but are not limited to: 1) there has been a shift from the east and Midwest to the west for meeting locations (This would be expected as the Society members are interested in seeing penstemon in their native habitat), 2) based on meeting registrations and photos, attendees at early meetings were mainly female and now the Society has about an equal number of men as women attending, and 3) there appears to be more younger people attending the meetings than what occurred in the late 1940's and 1950's. One of the strengths of the national APS meetings is that they provide the opportunity to see Penstemons in their native habitats and the meetings are a great opportunity to socialize and renew acquaintances with penstemaniacs.

The following tables summarize the Regional and National APS Meetings based on information gleaned from the Bulletins of the American Penstemon Society. Some reports on meetings were not available. Any additional information APS members may have on meetings can be forwarded to the APS Historian. Photos of APS meetings are also being collected. Any photos of APS meetings you may want to share can also be forwarded to the APS Historian.

Midwest Regional APS Meetings

| Year | Source | Location | Hosts | Comments |
|------|---|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1947 | BofAPS#4, p. 11 | Shenandoah, Iowa | Henry Field Seed Co. | Held in conjunction with the Midwest Hemerocallis Society on July 19 and 20. |
| 1949 | BofAPS#7, p. 29 BofAPS#8, p. 105 | Cook, Nebraska | Lena Seeba | Mrs. Seeba hosted this Midwest regional Meeting on June 3, 1949. There were 40 registered, from Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. This meeting was held during the blooming season. There were 25 beautiful arrangements, some were penstemon alone, some were with mixed flowers. There were 75 specimens of penstemons in pop bottles arranged on a long table. Slides and movies of Penstemon were shown. (The article in the APS Bulletin describing this event stated "so we felt that first regional meeting held in this area was a splendid success in every way.") |
| 1950 | BofAPS#9-3, p.139 | Cook, Nebraska | Lena Seeba | Collaboration with Cook Garden Club flower show. Over 116 registered. |
| 1951 | BofAPS#10, p. 107 | Cook, Nebraska | Lena Seeba | Collaboration with Cook Garden Club. 13 members present, 6 circle directors. |
| 1952 | BofAPS#11, p. 112 | Omaha, Nebraska | Fern Irving | 13 members, 1 guest present. |
| 1953 | BofAPS#12, p. 99 | Harlan, Iowa | Fern Irving/Lillie Plumb | Not a large attendance. Nice display in Lillie Plumb's garden. |
| 1954 | BofAPS#13, p. 61 | McCelland, Iowa | Alice Casson | Eleven members and 6 guests present. Leeba Seeba came the longest distance. |
| 1955 | BofAPS#14, p.267 | Omaha, Nebraska | Irma Ahlman | 13 members and 2 visitors. Nice display of <i>P. cobaea</i> |
| 1956 | BofAPS#15, p.15 | Oakland, Nebraska | Ellen Olson | 17 members and several guests. Plant sale netted \$18.05. |
| 1957 | BofAPS#16, p. 3 | Omaha, Nebraska | Fern Irving | 45 members and guests present. About 2 dozen species on display. Plant sale netted \$37.45. |
| 1958 | National Meeting at North Platte, Nebr. | | | |

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| 1959 | BofAPS#18, p. 24 | Hamburg, Iowa | Interstate Nurseries | 29 members and 11 guests present. Tour of nursery plots |
| 1960 | BofAPS#19, p. 21 | McClelland, Iowa | Alice Casson | 25 registered members and guests. Tour of area gardens. |
| 1961 | BofAPS#20, p. 22 | Omaha, Nebraska | Mrs. Leddy | Plant sale netted \$61.00. Informal program, no speakers. Garden visits. |
| 1962 | BofAPS#21, p. 36 | Topeka, Kansas | Rachel Snyder | 24 members and guests present. Displays and garden tours. Plant sale netted \$40.00. |
| 1963 | BofAPS#22, p. 63 | North Platte, Nebr | Glenn Viehmeyer | Talks by Ralph Bennett, Alan Scharf & Glenn Viehmeyer. Plot tours. |
| 1964 | BofAPS#23, p. 28 | Cook, Nebraska | Lena Seeba | 54 persons registered. Talks, displays and garden tours. |
| 1965 | BofAPS#24, p. 27 | McClelland, Iowa | Alice Casson | Visited gardens. 38 to 40 attendees. Plant sale netted \$51.00. |
| 1966 | BofAPS#25, p. 20 | North Platte, Nebr | Glenn Viehmeyer | Visited University plots. Discussed hosting a national meeting. |
| 1967 | BofAPS#26, p. 59 | Omaha, Nebraska | Bernice Graff | Plant sale netted \$37.35. Garden Tours. Mr. Viehmeyer did not attend. |
| 1968 | BofAPS#27, p. 7 | Council Bluffs, IA | Mable Huffaker Mrs. Lloyd Able | 27 people registered for the meeting. Browsed Earl May and Henry Field trial gardens. Glenn Viehmeyer could not attend. |
| 1969 | BofAPS#28, p. 8 | Topeka, Kansas | Rachel Snyder | Tours of parks and gardens. 28 attendees. |
| 1970 | BofAPS#29, p. 17 | North Platte, NE | Viehmeyer/Uhlinger | Dr. Uhlinger said some work with penstemon was continuing. 33 attendees. |
| 1971 | BofAPS#30, p. 18 | Hayes, Kansas | Dr. Howard Reynolds | Reports by Claude Barr, Howard Reynolds, Glenn Viehmeyer. 24 people registered. |
| 1972 | BofAPS#31, p.25 | Cook, Nebraska | Lena Seeba/Mae Moller | Garden tours. Talks by Claude Barr, Glenn Viehmeyer and Rev. Herrbolt. 53 attendees. |
| 1973 | BofAPS#32, p.32 | Mena, Arkansas | Lillian Leddy & Aileen McWilliam | Talks. Home and botanical garden tours. 44 attendees. |
| 1974 | BofAPS#33, p. 25 | North Platte, NE | Dr. Roger Unlinger | Visited Glenn Viehmeyer's garden, he died the previous week. Viewed research plots. Approximately 45 people attended. |
| 1975 | BofAPS#34, p.19 | Hutchinson, KS | James/Betty Taylor | Several talks, active business meeting and tour of greenhouse. |
| 1976 | BofAPS#35, p. 10 | Oakley, Kansas | Vernon/Emma Clark | Dr. Reynolds gave a talk. James Taylor updated group on polyploidy work. |
| 1977 | BofAPS#36, p. 11 | Prairie Village, KS | Rachel Snyder | Erma Pilz reported on Utah hybrids. James Taylor reported on chromosomes. |
| 1978 | BofAPS#37, p. 11 | Hardy, Nebraska | Verla/Lavern Heitmann | 28 members and visitors were present. Dale Lindgren was guest speaker. |
| 1979 | BofAPS#38-2, p. 10 | Mena, Arkansas | Aileen McWilliam | Garden and arboretum tour. Talimena Scenic Drive trip. |
| 1980 | BofAPS#39-1, p. 5 | Hutchinson, KS | James/Betty Taylor | Tour of gardens, Sandhills Prairie & Belle Plaine Arboretum. |
| 1981 | BofAPS#40-1, p.24 | North Platte, NE | Dr. Dale Lindgren | James Taylor and George Yingling gave talks. Tour of plots. Plant sale netted \$105.70 |
| 1982 | BofAPS#41-1, p. 9 | Dayton, Ohio | George Yingling | Tour of Cox Arboretum with about 1800 penstemon plants. Tour of Cole's garden. |
| 1983 | BofAPS#42-2, p. 29 | Hutchinson, KS? | James/Betty Taylor | Talk by Dr. Lindgren. Garden tour. Plant sale netted \$128.00. |
| 1984 | BofAPS#43-2, p. 56 | Denver, Colorado | Panayoti Keliadis | Tour of Denver Botanic Garden. Several presentations. Boulder gardens. |
| 1985 | | Prairie Village, KS | Rachel Snyder | No description found. |
| 1986 | BofAPS#45-2, p. 6 | | | In conjunction with Alpines 86 at Denver, CO. |
| 1987 | BofAPS#46-1, P. 6 | | | In conjunction with National Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico |
| 1988 | BofAPS#47-1, p. 5 | North Platte, NE | Dr. Dale Lindgren | Held in conjunction with a local state wildflower workshop. 98 people registered which included 26 APS members. Plant sale netted over \$300.00. |

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| 1989 | | | | No information found on a 1989 Midwest APS meeting. |
| 1990 | | | | No information found on a 1990 Midwest APS meeting. |
| 1991 | BofAPS#51-2, p.54. Personal file. | North Platte, Nebr. | Dale Lindgren | In conjunction with wildflower workshop: Speakers included APS members George Yingling, James Taylor and Dale Lindgren June 7-9, 1991. |
| 1992 | | | | No information found on a 1992 Midwest APS meeting. |
| 1993 | | | | In conjunction with National Meeting in Denver, Colorado |

Northwest Regional APS Meetings

| Year | Source | Location | Hosts | Comments |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1955 | BofAPS#14-2,p.239 | Elma, Washington | Myrtle & William Hebert | 1 st NW Regional Mtg. 10 members and 6 family guests |
| 1956 | BofAPS#15, p.20 | Clackamas, Oregon | Lavendeur Boyrie | 30 members and guests present |
| 1957 | BofAPS#16, p. 1 | Weiser, Idaho | Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moyer | 8 members and several guests. 75 entries in the exhibit. |
| 1958 | BofAPS#17, p. 2 | Fairfield, Washington | Orrie Marion, Flora Johnson, Edna Bartlett | 10 members, 9 adult guests, 3 children present. |
| 1959 | BofAPS#18, p. 21 | Corvallis, Oregon | Mr. & Mrs. Breithaupt | 18 members and 12 guests present. Presenters included Francisia Darts and Roy Davidson. |
| 1960 | BofAPS#19, p. 24 | North Bend, WA | Birdie/Frank Pavavich | 18 members and 23 guests present. Tour of Arboretum and gardens. |
| 1961 | BofAPS#20, p. 23 | McCall, Idaho | Vera Moyer | 10 members and 8 guests present. Field trip to Lick Creek Summit. |
| 1962 | BofAPS#21, p. 30 | White Rocks, BC, Canada | Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Darts | 27 people registered. Talks and a penstemon display as program. |
| 1963 | BofAPS#22, p.15 | Medford, Oregon | Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Crocker | Garden and Mountain Tours. 10 members and 21 guests attended. |
| 1964 | BofAPS#23, p. 30 | Spokane, Washington | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thurman | 7 members and 8 guests attended. Tours to Priest Lake, Idaho and Mt. Roothan. Tour of the Thurman's garden. |
| 1965 | BofAPS#24, p. 28 | Clarkston, Wash. | Vera Moyer | Mountain tours. 17 attendees. |
| 1966 | BofAPS#25, p. 12 | Bend, Oregon | Ken/Robin Lodewick Frank/Grace Sayre | Mountain tours. Talks. 43 attendees. |
| 1967 | BofAPS#26, p. 60 | Victoria, BC, Canada | Francisca Darts | 19 attendees. Stops at gardens and Estates. |
| 1968 | BofAPS#27, p. 9 | Glenwood, Wash. | Faith Mackaness Frank Sayre | Viewed <i>Penstemons</i> in the wild and Bruce Meyer's garden.(No Mexican types listed). 40 people registered. |
| 1969 | BofAPS#28, p. | Missouri, Montana | Charles Thurman Frank Sayre | Trips and University speakers with pictures. 37 registered. |
| 1970 | BofAPS#29, p. 19 | Medford, Oregon | Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Crocker | Visited Siskiyou Mountains. 40 attendees. |

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| 1971 | BofAPS#30, p. 21 | Cle Elum, Wash | Birdie Padavich Frank Sayre | Viewed slides. Toured Wenatchee National Forest. 57 attendees. |
| 1972 | BofAPS#31, p. 27 | Enterprise, Oregon | Frank Sayre Charlie Thurman | Wheeler Ridge. Slide programs. 38 attendees. |
| 1973 | BofAPS#32, p.26 | Mount Shasta, CA | Lodewicks & McCreadys | Trip to Deadwood Lake and Castle Lake. About 40 attended. |
| 1974 | BofAPS#33, p. 21 | Gresham, Oregon | Faith Mackaness | Columbia River Gorge. 18 attendees. |
| 1975 | BofAPS#34, p. 16 | Salt Lake City, Utah | Edward Rose, Leonard Pollard, Arthur Holmgren | Trips to Snowbird and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Talk by Dr. Pollard. 34 people attended this meeting. |
| 1976 | BofAPS#35, p. 9 | Seattle, Washington | Thelma Chatfield | In conjunction with International Rock Garden Conference. 51 attendees. |
| 1977 | BofAPS#36, p. 8 | Macks Inn, Idaho | Jeanne Anderson | Yellowstone Park area. 34 attendees. |
| 1978 | BofAPS#37, p. 10 | Reno, Nevada | Carl/ Shirley Backman | Dog Valley and Galena Creek tours. 34 attendees. |
| 1979 | BofAPS#38-2,p. 12 | Bend, Oregon | Ken/Robin Lodewick | Iron Mountain and McKenzie trips. Found 13 species in flower. |
| 1980 | BofAPS#39-1, p. 8 | Spokane, Wash | Cliff Lewis, Charlie and Gladys Thurman, Steve & Joan Hotink | Tour of Rim Rock Canyon. Talks. Plant sale. 33 attendees. |
| 1981 | BofAPS#40-1, p. 22 | Shasta, Washington | Thelma Chatfield Howard McCready | Trips to Mt. Eddy and Castle Lake trail. 39 attendees. |
| 1982 | BofAPS#41-2, p. 8 | Ketchum, Idaho | Cliff Lewis and Luella Moulton | Galena Summit and Copper Basin trips. 24 members plus guests. |
| 1983 | BofAPS#42-2, p. 4 | Leavenworth, Wash | Cliff Lewis | Cliff Lewis recently married Luella Moulton. Wenatchee Mountains. |
| 1984 | BofAPS#43-2, p. 37 | Enterprise, Oregon | Jack/Betty Guggolz | Trip to Wallowa Mountains. Mt. Howard. 20 attendees. |
| 1985 | BofAPS#44-2, p. 7 | Reno, Nevada | Carl/Shirley Bachman | 12 APS members and 4 guests. Lake Tahoe and other stops. Talks. |
| 1986 | BofAPS#45-2, p. 7 | | | In conjunction with Alpines 86 at Denver, CO. |
| 1987 | BofAPS#46-2, p. 5 | Eugene, Oregon | Kenneth and Robin Lodewick | Garden, arboretum and field tours. 17 people attended. |
| 1988 | BofAPS# 47-2, p.38 | Eureka, Montana | Sally Steward | 19 people present. Garden tours. Glacier Park visit. |
| 1989 | BofAPS#48-2,p. 70 | Spokane, Wash | Steve/Joan Hotink | No details. Some may have attended Southwest APS Regional meeting. |
| 1990 | BofAPS#50-1, p. 59 | Alberta, Canada | Pauline Olthof | 7 people present. |
| 1991 | BofAPS#51-1, p. 39 | Baker City, Oregon | Randy Alanko | More than 25 people attended. Saw 9 <i>Penstemon</i> species on trip/tours. |
| 1992 | BofAPS#52-1, p. 76 | Ely, Nevada | Shirley Backman | Combined SW and NW meeting. 37 people attended. |
| 1993 | | | | No record found of a NW APS meeting. May have been combined with NARGS and APS meeting in Denver. |

East Coast Regional Meeting

| Year | Source | Location | Hosts | Comments |
|------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 1957 | BofAPS#16, p. 7 | Portland, Maine | Grace Babb | 6 NE members and Bennett's attended. Preferred having a plant exchange to a plant sale. |
| 1960 | BofAPS#18, p. 25 | Virginia | Ralph Bennett | Meeting may not have developed. |

Southwest Region Meeting

| Year | Source | Location | Hosts | Comments |
|------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| 1988 | BofAPS#47-1, p. 6 | Arizona | Ellen Wilde | 1 st Southwest regional meeting. Visits to Arboretums in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. |
| 1989 | BofAPS#48-2, p. 91 | Yucaipa, CA | Betty Davenport | Mountain Springs Pass. Home garden tours. 12 attendees. |
| 1991 | BofAPS#50-2, p.89 | New Mexico | Ellen Wilde | 18 people present. Tours of Santa Fe and Albuquerque areas. |
| 1992 | BofAPS#52-1, p. 76 | Ely, Nevada | Shirley Backman | Combined SW and NW meeting. 37 people attended. |

National APS Meetings

| Year | Source | Location | Hosts | Comments |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1958 | BofAPS#17, p. 7 | North Platte, Nebraska | Glenn Viehmeyer | 26 members and 24 guests present. Thousands of <i>Penstemon</i> plants in the prime of bloom. |
| 1986 | BofAPS#45-2, p.6 | Denver, Colorado | Panayoti Kelaidis | Over 35 APS members in attendance. Botanic garden tour. Extensive business meeting. |
| 1987 | BofAPS#46-1, P. 6 | Santa Fe, NM | Ellen Wilde | Garden visits. Talks. Tent Rocks, NM tour. Visit to Cactus Hill. 59 people. |
| 1993 | BofAPS#52-2, p. 28 | Denver, Colorado | Panayoti Kelaidis | Tours and talks. 53 listed as attending. |
| 1994 | BofAPS#53-2, p.62 | Wyoming and Colorado | Beth Wilton | Started at Laramie, Wyoming, headed to the Medicine Bows and ended up in Fort Collins, Colorado. Included garden tours. |
| 1995 | BofAPS#54-2, p. 72 | Lewiston, Idaho | Dee Strickler | 44 attendees. Trips to Blue Mountains, Clearwater River and Craig Mountains. |
| 1996 | BofAPS#55-2, p. 51 | Snowbird, Utah | Dale Lindgren | In conjunction with NARGS meeting. Celebrated 50 years. |
| 1997 | BofAPS#56-2, p.16 | Black Hills, SD | Cindy Reed | Hot Springs, Rapid City and Hill City stops and Badlands. |
| 1998 | BofAPS#57-2, p. 17 | Eugene, Oregon | Ken/Robin Lodewick | Peter James and Andrea Wolfe gave presentations. About 45 present. |
| 1999 | BofAPS#58-2, p. 77 | Northern, NM | Ellen Wilde | Santa Fe, NM. Cactus Hill. Taos, NM. |
| 2000 | BofAPS#59-2, p. 87 | England | Peter James | Tour of gardens, college and nurseries. |
| 2001 | BofAPS#60-2, p. 41 | Walla Walla, Wash | Jim Swayne | Blue Mountains trip. 45 people registered. |
| 2002 | BofAPS#61-2, p. 14 | Southern Utah | Bill King | Tour beginning at Moab. It was a dry year resulting in a fewer plants in flower, but fantastic scenery, and wonderful companionship. |

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| 2003 | BofAPS#62-2, p. 16 | Denver, Colorado | Ann Bartlett | Denver Botanic Garden. Report on APS book and CD's. |
| 2004 | BofAPS#63-2, p. 6 | Sherwood, Oregon | Ginny Maffitt | Columbia River Gorge. Joy Creek Nursery. |
| 2005 | BofAPS#65-1, p. 21 | Bishop, California | Bob/Phoebe McFarlane | Bristlecone Pine Forest and other sites toured. Several presentations. |
| 2006 | BofAPS#65-1, p. 4 | Arizona | Louise Parsons | Visited parks/arboretums in Phoenix and Tucson. No description found only from pre-trip plans. |
| 2007 | BofAPS#66-2, p. 54 | Lower Stanley and Ketchum, Idaho | Louise Parsons | Mountain and field tours. Keynote speaker Dr. Andrea Wolfe. |
| 2008 | BofAPS#68, p. 5 | Ely, Nevada | Bob Pennington, | Nearly 100 people attended. Optional tours. Speakers included Loraine Yeatts, Dwayne Dickerson, Julie McIntosh, Noel Holmgren, Bob McFarlane, Bob Mentor, Dale Lindgren and Bill Gray. |
| 2009 | BofAPS#69 and APS Newsletter Vol. 3, No. 5(November 2009) | Chihuahua, Mexico | Dave Bentzin, Bob McFarlane, Dale Lindgren | Plant guides were Wynn Anderson and Rich Spellenberg. 37 people attended. Creel was the home base for most of the trip. Found 8 Penstemon species in flower. An optional trip was made on the train through the Copper Canyon area to El Fuerte. |
| 2010 | | Craig, Colorado | Mike Kintgen, Dwayne Dickerson | |
| 2011 | | | Louise Parsons | |

BofAPS = Bulletin of the American Penstemon Society