

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.			

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.

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.

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.

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