

# Highlights from July 20 Plant Walk to Beaver Meadows

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Nine of us took a leisurely stroll up to Beaver Meadows this past Saturday, and had a rewarding time taking in all the beautiful plants along the way (see list below). Beaver Meadows was chosen as our ultimate destination as it is a reliable place to see Parry's Harebells, and, while one of my field guides (Beidleman and Beidleman, 2000) says that it is common in montane and subalpine meadows, that has not been my experience and I always relish getting to see these guys.

It was initially a bit difficult to move the group out of the parking lot at Camp Rock Campground, because of the numerous flowers, e.g. *Galardia*, Fairy Trumpet, and Common Harebell, growing in the roadside riparian, aka ditch. I always like using the scientific name for Shrubby Cinquefoil as a nice example of why it's fun to embrace some of these binomials. When you look at the leaf it has five obvious leaflets, hence the genus name, *Pentaphylloides*, five-leafed, and then with the plant's always numerous flowers, the *floribunda* part makes perfect sense, abundant-flowers.

We then moved into the shade of the dense, tall spruce growing along a tiny creek. Here we scored with many wonderful flowers, including Tall Chiming Bells, Twistedstalk, and Canada Violet. A real highlight was getting to see a lot of three species of *Pyrolas* – Wood Nymph, Green *Pyrola*, and Pink *Pyrola*. These members of the *Pyrolaceae*, or Wintergreen Family, are among my favorites. Generally, they grow in deep-shade forests, and because they are not very tall, and their blossoms hang downward, they can be easily missed. Seeing such a profusion of them was great fun.

We then climbed up through a somewhat depauperate portion of the forest composed primarily of Lodgepole Pine with a few scattered Rockcresses. Next, moving out on to a beautiful south-facing slope of scattered aspen and ponderosa we chanced upon another group of flowers including Nodding Onion, Mountain Parsley, Black-eyed Susan, Golden Draba, and Western Wallflower. A favorite of mine here was Blue Mist Penstemon. I don't understand why the writers of plant field guides persist in using any other common name,



Colorado Columbine (c) Chuck Aid

such as: Low Penstemon, Front Range Penstemon, and Pride of the Mountain. “Blue Mist” is clearly the superior name as it so captures the ambience created by a whole patch of these vividly blue flowers growing all together.

We finally did make our way up to Beaver Meadows and were indeed fortunate to find many Parry’s Harebell along with some other great flowers like Prairie Smoke and Purple Avens. All in all, a really satisfactory morning. So, make sure to get out there and see some of our great mountain flowers. It ain’t fall yet!

- *Equisetum arvense* COMMON  
HORSETAIL
- *Juniperus communis* COMMON  
JUNIPER
- *Pinus flexilis* LIMBER  
PINE
- *Pinus ponderosa* PONDEROSA  
PINE
- *Pinus contorta* LODGEPOLE  
PINE
- *Picea engelmannii* ENGELMANN  
SPRUCE
- *Acer glabrum* ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN MAPLE
- *Allium cernuum* NODDING  
ONION
- *Cerastium strictum* MOUSE-  
EAR CHICKWEED
- *Eremogone fendleri* FENDLER’S  
SANDWORT
- *Heracleum sphondylium* COW PARSNIP



Golden Banner (c) Chuck Aid



Northern Bedstraw (c) Chuck Aid

- *Pseudocymopterus montanus* MOUNTAIN PARSLEY
- *Apocynum androsaemifolium* SPREADING DOGBANE
- *Achillea millefolium, lanulosa* YARROW
- *Agoseris glauca, dasycephala* TALL FALSE DANDELION
- *Antennaria rosea* PINK PUSSYTOES
- *Anaphalis margaritacea* PEARLY EVERLASTING
- *Arnica cordifolia* HEART-LEAVED ARNICA
- *Erigeron flagellaris* WHIPLASH DAISY
- *Gaillardia*



Prairie Smoke (c) Chuck Aid



Twinberry (c) Chuck Aid

- *aristata* BLANKETFLOWER
- *Rudbeckia hirta* BLACK-EYED SUSAN
- *Solidago missouriensis* SMOOTH GOLDENROD
- *Tragopogon dubius* YELLOW SALSIFY
- *Hackelia floribunda* FALSE FORGET-ME-NOT

• <i>Mertensia ciliata</i>	TALL CHIMING BELLS
• <i>Draba aurea</i>	GOLDEN DRABA
• <i>Distegia involucrate</i>	TWINBERRY
• <i>Sambucus racemose</i>	RED ELDERBERRY
• <i>Erysimum asperum</i>	WESTERN WALLFLOWER
• <i>Calochortus gunnisonii</i>	MARIPOSA LILY
• <i>Campanula parryi</i>	PARRY'S HAREBELL
• <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	COMMON HAREBELL
• <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	STAR SOLOMON'S SEAL
• <i>Artostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	KINNIKINNICK
• <i>Amerosedum lanceolatum</i>	YELLOW STONECROP
• <i>Astragalus spp</i>	VETCH
• <i>Thermopsis montana</i>	MOUNTAIN GOLDEN BANNER
• <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	RED CLOVER
• <i>Aconitum columbianum</i>	MONKSHOOD
• <i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>	COLORADO COLUMBINE
• <i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>	NELSON'S LARKSPUR
• <i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	RICHARDSON'S GERANIUM
• <i>Geranium caespitosum</i>	FREMONT GERANIUM
• <i>Hydrophyllum fendleri</i>	WATERLEAF
• <i>Phacelia heterophylla</i>	SCORPIONWEED
• <i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	BLUE_EYED GRASS
• <i>Chamerion danielsii</i>	FIREWEED
• <i>Limnorchis dilate</i>	WHITE BOG-ORCHID
• <i>Ipomopsis aggregate</i>	WHITE FAIRY TRUMPET
• <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i>	SHOOTING STAR
• <i>Moneses uniflora</i>	WOOD NYMPH
• <i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	GREEN PYROLA
• <i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	PINK PYROLA
• <i>Anemonidium canadense</i>	MEADOW ANEMONE
• <i>Drymocallis fissa</i>	LEAFY POTENTILLA
• <i>Erythrocoma trifolium</i>	PRAIRIE SMOKE
• <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	WOODLAND STRAWBERRY
• <i>Geum rivale</i>	PURPLE AVENS
• <i>Ribes spp</i>	GOOSEBERRY spp
• <i>Jamesia americana</i>	WAXFLOWER
• <i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i>	SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL
• <i>Rosa woodsii</i>	WILD ROSE
• <i>Rubus idaeus</i>	WILD RED RASPBERRY
• <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	QUAKING ASPEN
• <i>Salix spp</i>	WILLOW spp
• <i>Galium septentrionale</i>	NORTHERN BEDSTRAW

- *Heuchera parvifolia* COMMON ALUMROOT
- *Castilleja miniata* SCARLET PAINTBRUSH
- *Pedicularis procera* GIANT LOUSEWORT
- *Pedicularis groenlandica* ELEPHANT HEAD
- *Penstemon virens* BLUE MIST PENSTEMON
- *Penstemon virgatus ?* TALL PENSTEMON ?
- *Thalictrum fendleri* MEADOWRUE
- *Streptopus fassettii* TWISTEDSTALK
- *Viola scopulorum* CANADA VIOLET