

## Highlights from July 6 Plant Walk to Beaver Meadows

Chuck Aid. July 10, 2021 :

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Green Bog Orchid (Chuck Aid)

Six of us took a very leisurely stroll up towards Beaver Meadows this past Saturday, and, in fact, it was so leisurely that we never made it to Beaver Meadows. We just kept finding too many fun plants that grabbed our attention. Had we made it to Beaver Meadows we might have seen such great flowers as Mariposa Lily, Parry's Harebell, Blue-eyed Grass, and Prairie Smoke, all species that like mountain meadows. However, we consoled ourselves by finding several other cool flowers that made up for the ones we missed.



Tall Chiming Bells (Chuck Aid)

The parking lot itself at Camp Rock Campground is hard to get out of because it's at such an abrupt ecotone (a habitat created by the juxtaposition of distinctly different habitats) between open meadow punctuated with aspen and mature riparian spruce-fir forest. I like to begin there by exploring what I call "roadside riparian," aka the ditch. Water runs off these hard road surfaces causing more moisture to be available in the ditch and generally results in more flowers in that area e.g., Blanket Flower, Black-eyed Susan, Fairy Trumpet, and Common Harebell. 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.



Colorado Columbine (Chuck Aid)

Moving into the shade of the dense, tall spruce growing along a tiny creek, we found many wonderful flowers, including Sweet Cicely, Tall Chiming Bells, Twistedstalk, Purple Avens, Brook Saxifrage, and Canada Violet. A real highlight was getting to see four species of Pyrolas – Wood Nymph, Green Pyrola, Pink Pyrola, and One-sided Pyrola. These members of the Pyrolaceae, or Wintergreen Family, are among my favorites. Generally, they grow in deeply shaded forests, and because they are not very tall, and their blossoms hang downward, they can be easily missed. A few flowering shrubs were profuse in this area, Red Elderberry, Twinberry, and Raspberry.



Green Pyrola (Chuck Aid)

We then climbed up through a somewhat less flowered portion of the forest composed primarily of Lodgepole Pine with a few scattered Rock Cresses. However, moving out on to a beautiful south-facing slope of scattered aspen and Ponderosa we chanced upon another group of flowers including Nodding Onion, Whiskbroom Parsley, Black-eyed Susan, Pearly Everlasting, Western Wallflower, and Tall Penstemon. A favorite of mine here was Blue Mist Penstemon whose name captures the ambience created by a whole patch of these vividly blue flowers growing all together.

Good botanizing to you all,

Chuck

Plants along the Beaver Meadows trail, July 6, 2021 (6 participants)

<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	COMMON HORSETAIL
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	COMMON JUNIPER
<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	LIMBER PINE
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	PONDEROSA PINE
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	LOGGEPOLE PINE
<i>Picea engelmannii</i>	ENGELMANN SPRUCE
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	DOUGLAS-FIR
<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	SUBALPINE FIR
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAPLE

<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	COW PARSNIP
<i>Osmorhiza depauperate</i>	SWEET CICELY
<i>Pseudocymopterus montanus</i>	MOUNTAIN PARSLEY
<i>Achillea millefolium, lanulosa</i>	YARROW
<i>Antennaria parviflora</i>	ROCKY MOUNTAIN PUSSYTOES
<i>Antennaria rosea</i>	PINK PUSSYTOES
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	PEARLY EVERLASTING
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	WESTERN MUGWORT
<i>Arnica cordifolia</i>	HEART-LEAVED ARNICA
<i>Erigeron flagellaris</i>	WHIPLASH DAISY
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	BLANKET FLOWER
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	BLACK-EYED SUSAN
<i>Senecio spp</i>	SENECIO SPP
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	YELLOW SALSIFY
<i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	ALDER
<i>Betula fontinalis</i>	RIVER BIRCH
<i>Mertensia ciliata</i>	TALL CHIMING BELLS
<i>Mertensia lanceolata</i>	LANCELEAF CHIMING BELLS
<i>Draba spp</i>	DRABA SPP
<i>Erysimum asperum</i>	WESTERN WALLFLOWER
<i>Arabis spp</i>	ROCKCRESS
<i>Sambucus racemose</i>	RED ELDERBERRY
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	TWINBERRY
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	COMMON HAREBELL
<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	BUFFALOBERRY
<i>Artostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	KINNIKINNICK
<i>Cerastium strictum</i>	MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED
<i>Chonopodium capitatum</i>	STRAWBERRY BLITE
<i>Amerosedum lanceolatum</i>	YELLOW STONECROP
<i>Astragalus spp</i>	VETCH SPP

<i>Thermopsis divaricarpa</i>	GOLDEN BANNER
<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	MOUNTAIN LUPINE
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	RED CLOVER
<i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>	COLORADO COLUMBINE
<i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>	NELSON'S LARKSPUR
<i>Geranium caespitosum</i>	WILD GERANIUM
<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	RICHARDSON'S GERANIUM
<i>Hydrophyllum fendleri</i>	WATERLEAF
<i>Phacelia heterophylla</i>	SCORPIONWEED
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	NODDING ONION
<i>Streptopus fassettii</i>	TWISTEDSTALK
<i>Chamerion danielsii</i>	FIREWEED
<i>Oenothera villosa</i>	COMMON EVENING-PRIMROSE
<i>Limnorchis hyperborea</i>	GREEN BOG-ORCHID
<i>Polemonium delicatum</i>	JACOB'S LADDER
<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>Pyrola secunda</i>	ONE-SIDED PYROLA
<i>Thalictrum fendleri</i>	FENDLER MEADOWRUE
<i>Actea rubra</i>	BANEBERRY
<i>Anemonidium canadense</i>	MEADOW ANEMONE
<i>Drymocallis fissa</i>	LEAFY POTENTILLA
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	WILD STRAWBERRY
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	RASPBERRY
<i>Geum rivale</i>	PURPLE AVENS
<i>Ribes spp</i>	GOOSEBERRY SPP
<i>Jamesia americana</i>	WAXFLOWER

<i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i>	SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL
<i>Padus virginiana</i>	CHOKECHERRY
<i>Physocarpus monogynus</i>	NINEBARK
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	QUAKING ASPEN
<i>Salix spp</i>	WILLOW spp
<i>Galium septentrionale</i>	NORTHERN BEDSTRAW
<i>Saxifraga odontoloma</i>	BROOK SAXIFRAGE
<i>Heuchera parvifolia</i>	COMMON ALUMROOT
<i>Castilleja miniate</i>	SCARLET PAINTBRUSH
<i>Pedicularis bracteosa</i>	BRACTED LOUSEWORT
<i>Pedicularis groenlandica</i>	ELEPHANT HEAD
<i>Valeriana edulis</i>	VALERIAN
<i>Penstemon virens</i>	BLUE MIST PENSTEMON
<i>Penstemon virgatus</i>	TALL PENSTEMON
<i>Viola scopulorum</i>	CANADA VIOLET