



Newsletter

July 2016

Issue 61

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Old-Man-of-the-Mountain (*Tetrandeum grandiflorum*)

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Wasatch Wildflowers - By Liz Rocco

"Summma Tiiimmmme, and the livin's easy!"

I'll be the first to admit that I love winter; so much so, that for the last 6 years I've spent half the year living at 8,500' part way up a mountain. The snow starts flying early and doesn't melt out till late into the summer months. I struggled to let winter go this year, but now that spring has progressed into summer, I've really begun to appreciate how beautiful the Wasatch is without its winter coat. The mountains are stunning, and in the summer they seem particularly craggy and rugged. Alta in particular seems to have a different ambience in the summer; quieter, slower, more laid-back. While the general atmosphere seems more peaceful to me; the flora and fauna are alive. Migrating birds, moose, deer, and of course, wildflowers! The wildflowers in Little Cottonwood Canyon are spectacular and notably renowned at the head of this high alpine, glacially-carved canyon. It is on many people's bucket list to hike in the Albion Basin amongst over 120 wildflower species which are usually peaking sometime between July through mid-August.

Wildflowers have been celebrated for time immemorial and there is no exception in the Wasatch. While residents and visitors alike have been enjoying the diverse and plentiful wildflowers for decades, 1996 marked the first year in which an organized event took place to celebrate the wildflowers. The Wasatch Wildflower Festival was created by a small close knit group of community members in Alta. Originally sponsored by the Alta

Lodge, this event brings people together to hike, discuss flowers and their ecology, eat, drink and enjoy live music. This year's event takes place July 29th-31st and is not to be missed! Visit cottonwoodcanyons.org for an up to date schedule of events and have your calendars marked.

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Alta Ski Area Clean Up Day - By Liz Rocco

Alta Ski Area Clean-Up Day took place this year on July 2nd. A beautiful day of sun, clouds and temperature in the 70's volunteers took to the slopes to pick up trash and recycling from all over Alta Ski Area. Over 40 volunteers, 10 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation employees and 7 Alta Ski Area employees spent their Saturday morning helping to keep clean one of the most beautiful places in the Wasatch. After registration and a light breakfast, the crew headed across the transfer tow and loaded the Collins Lift for a special summer time ride. Thanks to Colby, Chris, and Greg for spinning the lift! The crew of over 50 people broke into six groups. Three groups headed down the Sugarloaf side of the mountain and three groups down Collins Gulch; with six total routes, we were able to cover a broad area. This crew was diligent; no trash too big or small stood in the way.

Everything from busted electronics, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, mountain operations trash, to old skis and even an Alta Ski Area Day pass from 2002 were brought down off the mountain. The day was a great success! Discounted lunch from the Albion Grill brought everyone together to share the day's finds and wildflower sightings. Thanks to everyone who got involved and especially Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for co-hosting this event! See you all next year!





**"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands,
but seeing with new eyes."**

Marcel Proust

Wasatch Wildflowers Continued....

Whether you're getting geared up for the Wasatch Wildflower Festival or simply out for a hike in Alta, take a moment to check out our new trailhead signs. These new signs, located at the Albion and Wildcat Base areas, show all the trails Alta has to offer. Don't get hung up on just the Cecret Lake Trail; take time to explore the Albion Meadows, or some of the higher terrain along Twin Lakes or Catherine's Pass areas. The summer road will be open starting July 11th and a shuttle service put on by the Town of Alta will be making laps from Albion Base to the Catherine's Pass and Cecret Lake Trailheads on weekends and major holidays. Each year the number of visitors to Alta during the summer months has been growing; please remember to practice [Leave No Trace Ethics](#). In particular, take only pictures of the wildflowers so they will be enjoyed for generations to come and wildlife. Please stay on the trails, the landscape around Alta can look particularly rugged in the summer months, but this high alpine area is fragile. The high elevation meadows and hillsides in upper Little Cottonwood Canyon have a very short growing

season and can take years to rejuvenate damage to vegetation and for soil to recover. Please do your part to take care of this special place. So, what are you waiting for? Grab a wildflower guide and hit the trails!



20th Annual Wasatch Wildflower Festival

Alta Events: July 30th 2016

Naturalist led hikes leaving at:

9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, 12:00pm

Ongoing Art and Entertainment activities at base
from 9 am – 12 pm

Live Music by Bobo of the Weekenders
8:30am-12:30pm

July - August Sustainability Events

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at alta.com/alta-environmental-center/resources#sustainability-events.

- **July 21 - Bargaining for Eden Film:** Join Steven Trimble for an engaging evening film at Our Lady of the Snows in Alta. More info: altaarts.org/events.
- **July 27 - Zoo Brew:** See the Zoo in a way that's hard to imagine- with no strollers! Roam with drink in hand at this new after-hours event: hoglezoo.org
- **July 28 - Alta Invasive Weed Pull:** Join Alta partners for their monthly Thursday evening weed pull. More info and registration: volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **July 30 - Wasatch Wildflower Festival:** The flowers are blooming and we're celebrating. More info: cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **July 1 - Accipiter Field Trip:** Don't know what an accipiter is? Well, take a hike with HawkWatch International in Alta to find out. More info: hawkwatch.org
- **Aug 2 - River Giants Feeding:** It's fun to see the river giants swim and more fun to watch them eat! More info: thelivingplanet.com.
- **Aug 10 - Wild Wednesdays:** Every Wednesday the Ogden Nature Center puts on a different and interesting afternoon program for kids and adults alike. Check it out: OgdenNatureCenter.org
- **Aug 11 - Cooking in the Garden:** Join instructor Purnima Gandhi in the Herb Garden as she prepares a menu of delicious Indian Cuisine while providing step-by-step procedures for each dish. Check it out: RedButte.org
- **Aug 13 - Bird Talk and Walk:** Join Tracy Aviary for a fun filled morning of bird watching. Experts and beginners alike are invited to join. More info: alta.com/alta-environmental-center

