

COBB TRAIL WILDFLOWER WALK
mid April to mid May

Description: from trailhead at the end of West Highland Valley Road off of Warm Springs Road, left on Cobb Trail to ridge above old homestead. Flowering plants are listed in likely order of occurrence from trailhead; some might not yet be in bloom, or present during a particular year.
Difficulty: 4 miles roundtrip (out and back; longer loop option available), 1000 foot elevation gain. Several interesting stops enroute, providing alternate turn-around options.

Plants listed in approximate order of occurrence within category; * indicates native

SIGNIFICANT NOXIOUS WEEDS (mostly not yet in bloom, but evident)

Whitetop (*Lepidium* [previously *Cardaria*] *draba*)

Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) -- other annual *Bromus* also present

Medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum/Elymus caput-medusae*)

Bur buttercup (*Ceratocephalus/Ranunculus testiculata*)

SHRUBS AND TREES (mostly not in bloom)

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) – non-native tree

***Basin big sagebrush** (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*)

***Rubber rabbitbrush** (*Ericameria* [formerly *Chrysothamnus*] *nauseosa*) -- var. *hololeuca* is the more common larger variety; the smaller, more spindly var. *oreophila* is mostly on plateaus

***Bitterbrush, Antelope brush** (*Purshia tridentata*)

***Willows** (*Salix* spp.) – several species locally, most are difficult to distinguish

***Syringa or Lewis's mockorange** (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

***Golden currant** (*Ribes aureum*)

***Interior or Wood's rose** (*Rosa woodsii* subsp. *ultramontana*) – native, with slender prickles

***Mountain big sagebrush** (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*)

Mohave ceanothus (*Ceanothus* [greggii var.] *vestitus*) – intentionally introduced non-native

Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) – intentionally introduced non-native, locally persisting

PRIMARY BUNCHGRASSES (not all in bloom, but evident)

Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*) – weedy non-native

Tall or rush wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*; alternatively in *Agropyron*, *Elymus*, *Elytrigia*) – intentionally introduced non-native

Crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) – widely planted non-native

***Bluebunch wheatgrass** (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*, alternatively in *Agropyron* or *Elymus*) – both native-to-site and planted races from other sites probably present

***Threeawn grass** (*Aristida purpurea* var. *longiseta*)

***Squirreltail grass** (*Elymus elymoides*, formerly *Sitanion hystrix*)

***Sandberg bluegrass** (*Poa secunda*)

***Idaho fescue** (*Festuca idahoensis*)

WILDFLOWERS POTENTIALLY IN BLOOM

- Stork- or cranesbill, filaree** (*Erodium cicutarium*) – non-native
- Desert alyssum** (*Alyssum desertorum*) and/or **pale alyssum** (*Alyssum alyssoides*) – widespread non-natives, difficult to tell apart; also called madwort
- ***Fiddleneck** (*Amsinckia* spp.) – species difficult to distinguish
- ***Woolly-pod milkvetch** (*Astragalus purshii* var. *glareosus*)
- ***Barestem biscuitroot, pestle-parsnip** (*Lomatium nudicaule*)
- Jagged chickweed** (*Holosteum umbellata*) – inconspicuous non-native
- ***Smallflower woodlandstar/prairiestar** (*Lithophragma parviflorum*)
- Spring whitlow-grass** (*Draba verna*) – tiny white flowers with notched petals
- ***Longleaf phlox** (*Phlox longifolia*) – intergrading with more compact pricklyleaf phlox (*Phlox aculeata*) in Boise foothills
- ***Slender phlox** (*Microsteris gracilis* var. *humilior*)
- ***Arrowleaf balsamroot** (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)
- ***Miner's lettuce** (*Claytonia/Montia perfoliata*, possibly also *C. rubra*)
- ***Ballhead waterleaf** (*Hydrophyllum capitatum*)
- ***Narrowleaf or Great Basin biscuitroot** (*Lomatium simplex*, previously included in *L. triternatum* as ssp. *platycarpum*, nine-leaf biscuitroot)
- ***Longspur or polychrome lupine** (*Lupinus arbustus* [= *L. laxiflorus* in older references])
- [***Western or intermediate dogbane** (*Apocynum floribundum*) – not in bloom, but noteworthy]
- ***Cleavers, bedstraw, stickywilly, goose-grass** (*Galium aparine*)
- ***Dwarf or low pussytoes** (*Antennaria dimorpha*)
- ***Andrus's biscuitroot** (*Lomatium andrusianum*, previously included in *L. triternatum* or *L. ambiguum*)
- ***Beckwith's violet, sagebrush pansy** (*Viola beckwithii*)
- Corn gromwell** (*Buglossoides/Lithospermum arvensis*)
- ***Goosefoot violet** (*Viola purpurea* ssp. *venosa*)
- ***Bulbous or early woodlandstar/prairiestar** (*Lithophragma glabrum*, formerly *L. bulbiferum*)
- ***Cross-seed or slender poppercorn-flower** (*Plagiobothrys tenellus*)
- ***Tansymustard** (*Descurainia* sp.) – native species difficult to distinguish, taxonomy in flux
- ***Carpet or Hood's phlox** (*Phlox hoodii*)
- ***Scabland fleabane** (*Erigeron bloomeri* var. *bloomeri*)

compiled by Barbara Ertter, 9 April 2018