

1967 Botany Hikes:

Then, still higher, the fascinating alpinists are just at the height of their seasonal social activities – strange, brightly-colored faces laughing into

In mid-July we found the magnificent high-growing Mountain Pasque-flower in full bloom at 6,000 feet elevation; some of the plants just emerging after the lately-retreated snow, even then, had gone to seed and reached the Old-Man-of-the-Mountain stage. One week later I went back up to this high point on the side of El Capitan and could find not a single Pasque-flower in bloom. In place of those large newly-opened flowers

On my third trip to El Capitan's flower gardens I found many of the plants out of bloom and most of the others withering, although in one steep, shady, still-damp draw I found

After a number of painful backtracking attempts to get up over the cliffs I finally made it to the top of the high ridge above, the rugged saddle between Preston and Copper Peak.

Just that simple is the search for thrills to a dedicated wildplant nut.

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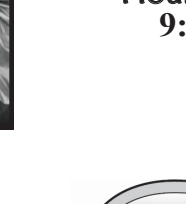
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