

# Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



Desert Bearpoppy

*Spring has arrived* and now is a great time visit Ash Meadows. Spring starts early at the refuge beginning in February when the rare Ash Meadows milkvetch begins to bloom. Although these flowers only last a few weeks we know there is more to come. In late March, the Ash Meadows sunray begins dotting the landscape with its yellow ‘daisy-like’ flowers lasting through early May. Both of these plants are endemic to Ash Meadows which means the particular species does not exist any place else on earth.

The rare desert bearpoppy begins blooming in April and can last until June. Its delicate white flowers and fuzzy leaves are a favorite of staff and visitors. The first scientifically described specimen was collected by Merriam and Bailey in 1891 during the Death Valley expedition hence its scientific name *Arctomecon merriamii* (*Arctomecon* comes from the Greek-bear poppy, from long hairs.)

Although we don’t have the magnificent flower displays that Death Valley has on occasion, we do have various flowers blooming from February until September. The Spring-loving centauray, another endemic, can be abundant around the springs in July, lasting through



Ash Meadows sunray

September. The flowers are small but very unique.



Spring-loving Centauray

The Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish is another spring-time favorite. The males displaying their flashy blue mating colors are a sight to see. Birders flock to the refuge in the spring in the hopes of catching a glimpse of flycatchers, verdins, wrens, hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds, great blue herons, snowy egrets and more.

Take a spring break and visit your favorite refuge. See you soon.





Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex is sponsoring a photo contest to showcase the amazing wildlife and beauty of southern Nevada.

A \$25 gift certificate will be awarded to first place winners in adult and youth divisions.

**Contest Rules:**

1. Beginning May 1, 2013 participants may submit a total of three photos to our website [www.facebook.com/FriendsofDesertWildlifeRefuges](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDesertWildlifeRefuges). Winners will be announced June 15th.
2. All adult participants must be 18 years of age or older on the date the photos are submitted. Youth wishing to participate must first submit a permission form available on our website [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash\\_meadows/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows/)
3. All photographs must be taken between the dates of 5/31/2012 and 5/31/2013 on one of the following refuges: Ash Meadows NWR, Desert NWR, Moapa Valley NWR, or Pahranaagat NWR.
4. Competitors may not be professional photographers.
5. Photographs may not include human subjects or private property.
6. Photos previously published are not eligible.
7. Digital manipulation that changes the content or meaning of a photograph is not allowed. Minor adjustments to brightness, color, and contrast are acceptable. Cropping is acceptable.
8. USFWS employees, board members of Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and their immediate family members are not eligible. For information send an e-mail to [timothy\\_parker@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_parker@fws.gov)

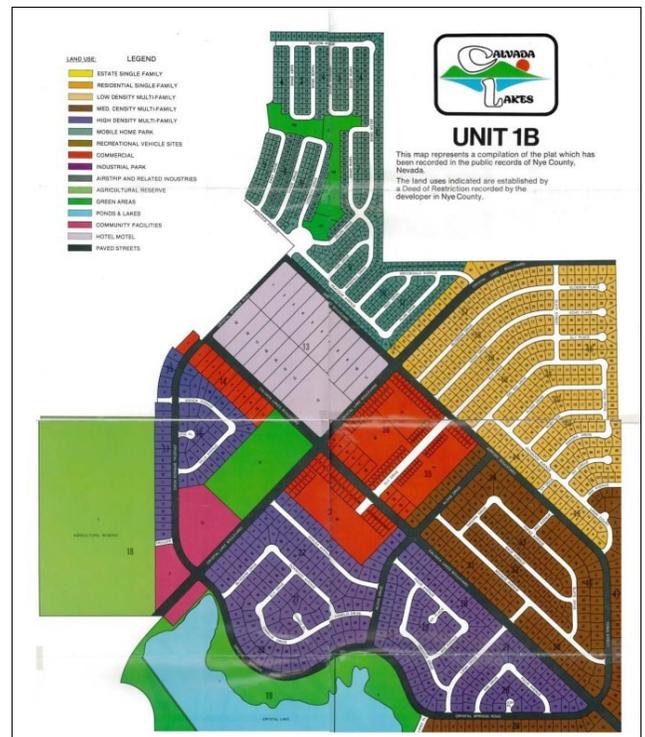


# Ash Meadows Almanac

Did you know that Ash Meadows almost became a mini-city? In 1980 Cappaert Enterprises began plans to turn Ash Meadows into a mini-city complete with hotels, airstrip, commercial businesses, mobile home park and 34,000 homes.

The map shown here is only a portion of the planned development. After the project was halted it was estimated that water usage would have been over 300% of what was available. People would have run out of water at some point in time. It is likely that some, and maybe all, of the rare plants and animals would have gone extinct.

It is amazing that just a handful of people were instrumental in leading the way for this special place to become a refuge where the rare species and natural spring pools could be protected.





# DRAGONFLIES

By Bruce Lund

Here it was, only April 6 and half a dozen spot-winged gliders were darting back and forth, picking off invisible insects above a Nevada Naturalist field trip over the Crystal Spring and Point of Rock boardwalks - this was quite early for dragonflies which are mainly hot summer critters. With both a two inch body length and wing width, this is a good sized dragonfly which made it easy to see overhead.

However, on the wing - which is how this is almost always seen - we had to look REALLY hard to see the dark spots that are located close to its body. With patience, they invariably turned in flight, exposing the spots against the sky, although I'm sure many in the group are still wondering if they actually saw those wing spots.

Because the individuals we saw were out so early in the season, they were likely residents hatched from eggs laid in the shallow water of places like Crystal Reservoir. But it won't be long before they will be meeting others migrating north from California and Mexico. Amazing as it may seem, a number of the larger dragonfly species are now known to migrate north and south like birds, and the champion dragonfly migrators are the two species of gliders (the wandering glider is also found at Ash Meadows).

If you're fascinated by dragonflies and damselflies, Ash Meadows is a great place to find a majority of the 50 or so species known in southern Nevada, with thirty-three species found there – so far. With more people looking from early spring through late fall, we're likely to add more to the list!





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 Amargosa Valley, Nevada 89020  
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The refuge is open from Sunrise to Sunset every day  
 Visitor Center Hours of Operation:  
 Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.  
 Open holidays / weekends when staff or volunteers available

Website: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash\\_meadows/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows/)

Don't forget we are on Facebook too!



New Ash Meadows T-Shirts  
 have arrived!



Be the first on your block to get the new Ash Meadows T-Shirts only \$19.95 plus shipping (\$21.95 XXL). They are available in Rust or Blue and can be ordered on line at <https://dvnha.org/opencart/> or call 1-800-478-8564 ext. 10



Mariposa Lily courtesy of Jonah Mattewson



Bearpaw Poppies courtesy of Jonah Mattewson



Cactus courtesy of Jonah Mattewson



Roadrunner

Photo Gallery  
 Spring 2013



Ruddy Duck



Side-blotched lizard



Great Blue Heron



Chuckwalla