

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER**

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023





A Thousand Thanks

On March 4, a flock of 1,000 multicolored cranes swept into my house. Doris Eng and Sharon Miles brought an incredible installation of dozens of strings of hand-folded origami cranes, each one made by my fellow members of the Native Plant Society to encourage me in my struggles with cancer. I was, and am, totally overwhelmed by your concern and loving efforts to wish me well. The dangling curtain, about six feet long, now hangs in the foyer of my house where I can see it first thing every morning when I come down the stairs. It's a constant reminder of the value of friends, and that we are not alone in this world.

George Miller

COVER PHOTO

Echinocereus fendleri, Fendler's Hedgehog on Three Gun Springs Trail, May 26, 2021.
Will we see this blooming on our May 13 field trip? Sign up and see!

Photo © Pam McBride

President's Message

Greetings,

Has this been the greyest, rainiest March in 20 years? Add to that the official pronouncement that El Niño has finally replaced a seemingly endless La Niña, and we start looking forward to a kinder, gentler year for native plants and their fans. Fewer forest fires, more flowing streams, and the prospect of more colorful field trips out in the bloomin' desert.

Our field trip coordinator, Sharon Miles, has been busy fielding members' suggestions, organizing volunteer leaders, and my butting in with reminders, bless her heart. It is all leading to a wonderful season of exploring, learning and discovering. These excursions are truly for you, not just "the usual suspects." You do not have to know Latin or Greek in order to appreciate New Mexico's biodiversity. And you will find the diverse vegetation we seek is also sought by birds, butterflies and other wildlife that depend on it. This is ecotourism on the cheap.

Most public groups these days require registration ahead of time for each trip, signing a liability release, and they cap the number of participants. We have been more casual, and although we do have a liability release, we have usually accommodated anyone who shows up, not kept track of who signed it or when, and have not usually set limits. Years ago, NPSNM established sensible rules, promoting safety for us as AND the for the environment we traverse. Sadly, few have looked at them lately or have even seen them.

Until we experience overloaded trips, we are not going to limit numbers, but if the leader knows who is coming, getting each other's phone number, they can check on that late person, and the participant can send notice if they can't make it. If very many people sign up, a co-leader can be brought in to help manage. If high clearance vehicles are needed, a sufficient number can be assured. Other benefits abound. So inform the leader in advance and learn the meeting place for departure.

Sometimes that release form has delayed our departure — fussing with forms on site, bringing clip boards and pens, folks thinking they signed before or maybe not. Now we provide easy access for anyone with internet and a printer to download the form and the trip guidelines here: <https://www.npsnm.org/fieldtrip-documents/> Please print and sign the release ahead of time, and take a picture of it with your phone. Hand the leader the signed paper on your first field trip, and then just show any future leader the photo. We will provide this link with every field trip announcement. If you cannot do this or if you bring a guest, the leader will have a form for you to sign on site, and we will maintain a list of signers. Again, if the leader knows you are coming ahead of time, they can verify that you are on that list.

By the way, the time we post for meeting is the departure time, and most leaders will not wait beyond a couple of minutes more. And do check out those very reasonable field trip rules I mentioned. I add one that summarizes them all. "Stay safe, stay curious, and have fun."

- Tom

Volunteer Activities for 2023

After over 3 years the Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant is planning to participate in nearby educational events. We are interested in developing a pool of volunteers for upcoming activities. If you're interested in helping promote our mission and have a good time visiting with other members and the public, please contact the educational outreach coordinator, Carol Conoboy, carolconoboy [at] gmail [dot] com, 505-897-3530. We will be collecting information on who is interested and when people are available.

Saturday & Sunday, May 13-14

Rio Grande Nature Center, Spring Garden Fest

Saturday, May 20

Sevilleta NWR 50th Anniversary Fiesta from 10am-2pm. For schedule and

information: www.amigosdelasevilleta.org

Supporting Wildlife with Native Plant Species: Thoughts on Lu Lu Sage's February Presentation

Photos by Lee Regan

Story by Diane Stevenson

Lu Lu Sage's presentation at the February monthly meeting reiterated the need for native plants in our home and community landscapes. In your home garden, leave some bare ground for ground-nesting native bees, landscape with a diversity of plants, plant heights, as well as flowering period, color and shape. Gravel-scapes devoid of plants offer nothing but weed habitat and a heat island.



Ageratina herbacea, Fragrant Snakeroot, with butterfly, White Mountain Wilderness, near Ruidoso, Sept. 8, 2021



Baccharis salicifolia, Willow Baccharis, at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen, Sept. 23, 2021

"These photos might serve as illustrations to follow-up Lulu Sage's presentation (March 1) on "From Yard to Native Habitat: How Many Species Will One Plant Support?" - recognizing the interconnectedness of plants and other species." Lee Regan stated in his e-mail containing photos for this newsletter.

Some highlights of her talk and things YOU can do:

- Some 4000 native New Mexico plants support native species of wildlife: insects, nesting native birds, reptiles, mammals, even aquatic fauna, throughout our diverse ecological food webs
- Light pollution (stay-on-all-night-outside-lights) negatively affects insects, birds and other wildlife during the warm seasons. Fireflies, for example, need dark skies at night to find mates.
 - ◇ Put a motion sensor on outdoor lighting spring through fall or turn off night lighting.
 - ◇ White and blue LED lights are bad for moths, insects and other wildlife. Use yellow lights instead.



Dalea Purpurea, Purple Prairie Clover, with bee on South Faulty Trail, Sandia Canyon Estates, Aug. 3, 2022

Supporting Wildlife with Native Plant Species, *continued*

- Native bees only live about six to eight weeks.
- The 750 to 800 native NM species of bees are ground nesting, so leave bare ground among plants and landscape rock.
- In autumn: leave pithy stalks for native bee brood chambers. If you need to remove end of season stalks (yucca, NM sunflowers, globe mallow stems, etc.) from your landscape, cut them close to the ground and put in a corner of your yard in a “corral of wire”.



Erysimum capitatum, Western Wallflower, with Hawkmoth, White Mountain Wilderness, July 16, 2021

- Leaf-cutter bees like apricots, lilacs, New Mexico olive, and redbuds; they make fascinating shelters and do not hurt trees.
- There are many symbiotic relationships in nature; each yucca species has its own moth or other pollinator, for example.
- The aster family, Asteraceae, supports insects in the key seasons of spring and fall. Birds feed their young protein-rich insects to grow and develop in spring. Late summer and autumn is when birds need to build body reserves by eating insects for fall migration.



Veratrum californicum, Corn Lily or False Hellebore, with beetle, at Santa Fe Ski Basin, Aug. 4, 2019



Pastinaca sativa, Wild Parsnip, with visitor, at Fenton Lake State Park, Sept. 2, 2021

Fen, Bog & Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis, by Annie Proulx. Scribner, New York. 2022.

BOOK REVIEW

By Diane Stevenson

My inspiration for reviewing Fen, Bog & Swamp was an NPR interview with Annie Proulx about this book in October 2022. As my second career, I wanted to study wetlands because of their ecological significance and amazing diversity but life got in the way. Like many of you, I was familiar with the legally defined five wetland system types: marine, tidal, lacustrine, palustrine, and riverine. Remember Robert (Bob) Sivinski's *ciénega* presentation* to the Albuquerque Chapter? He gave us a fascinating look at New Mexico's unique *ciénegas*, spring-fed fresh water wetlands throughout the state.

Annie Proulx defines fens, bogs, and swamps around the world and divides the book into these wetland types; yet each fen, bog, and swamp is completely unique. She avoided using too much wetland terminology because she is not a scientist. I used a dictionary (because I like to) to assure I understood the context of words I was less familiar with. Ms. Proulx's focus is on these specific types of wetland systems because they act as huge carbon sinks and sustain a diversity of life. Over the centuries, humans have drained and dried them; releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄). Her look at the human history of using Earth's resources to the detriment of all life is both fascinating and engaging. Today, the vast majority of wetlands world-wide, including fens, bogs, and swamps, have been drained and dried for agriculture and housing resulting in flooding and other self-inflicted human disasters.

It was her statement during the NPR interview that guided how I read the book. Ms. Proulx wrote the book from a didactic approach rather than a call to action. Fen, Bog & Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis was written to teach or instruct as well as for pleasure and enjoyment. I suggest the didactic read. I'm looking forward to reading some of her other work. Enjoy!

Annie Proulx dedicated this book to the people of Ecuador, who made their country the first in the world to put legal rights for natural ecosystems in its constitution.

Background notes and references:

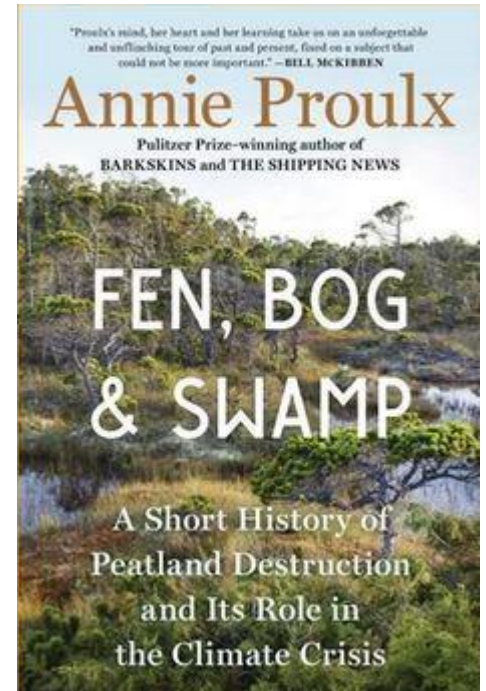
*See the 2017 Winter Pollinator issue of the Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM newsletter. Robert Sivinski's talk was on March 1, 2017, titled "Adios Ojos y Ciénegas: Our Endangered Desert Wetlands".

"Between 1780 and 1980, an estimated 117 million acres of wetlands were lost in the United States. Seventy five percent of northern central United States wetland, largely prairie potholes, were lost between 1850 and 1977."

Kent, Donald M. Ed. Applied Wetlands Science and Technology. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton, 1994.

"Wetlands are an *ecotone* – an "edge" habitat, a transition zone between dry land and deep water, an environment that is neither clearly terrestrial nor clearly aquatic."

Hammer, Donald A., and Robert K. Bastian, p. 5. In Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment: Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural. Donald A. Hammer, Ed., Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, Michigan, 1989.



Yerba Mansa Project — Bosque Restoration Field Day

Saturday May 13, 8:30am—12 noon

Tingley Beach Area Bosque

Please RSVP for details to info@yerbamansaproject.org

Join the Yerba Mansa Project for our next field day in partnership with City of Albuquerque Open Space. We'll be re-seeding native plants and removing nonnative invasive Ravenna grass. All ages are welcome.

The Yerba Mansa Project is a community-based, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization. Learn more at www.YerbaMansaProject.org

Picture Book Review
By Diane Stevenson

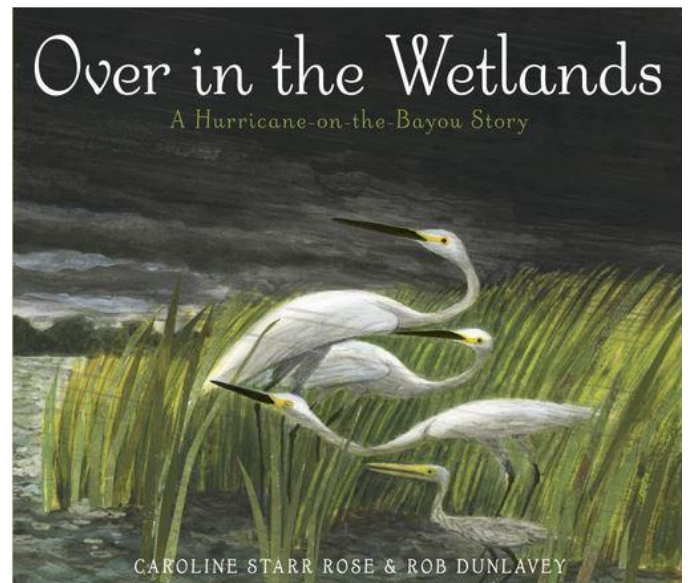
Rose, Caroline Starr. Over in the Wetlands: A Hurricane-on-the-Bayou Story. Illustrated by Rob Dunlavey. Schwartz and Wade Books (an imprint of Random House Children's Books), New York, 2015.

<https://carolinestarrrose.com/>

<https://www.robd.com/>

I'm not sure how this book came under my wetlands radar, but it is a delightful learning experience about the importance of coastal wetlands during hurricanes. It is beautifully illustrated, written for children of all ages; older folks can read this book to their children and grandchildren. Young pre-readers can read the pictures to their caregivers.

My take-home lesson is that the *entire* Gulf of Mexico coast is one continuous coastal wetland. Wetlands, biologically diverse ecosystems, lessen flooding impact by absorbing and dispersing water and curtailing coastal erosion. The book describes a number of animal species living in these precious ecosystems.



Save the Dates: The El Paso Chapter hosts the 2023 NPSNM Annual Conference Friday, September 22nd through Sunday, September 24th, 2023, held in Alpine, Texas.

<https://www.npsnm.org/2023-conference/>

The El Paso Chapter is planning the 2023 conference in Alpine, TX. There will be a morning of presentations about the Trans-Pecos region of Texas on Friday, September 22nd. After a break, we will meet at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute outside of Ft. Davis for tours of the site followed by our dinner.

Saturday, September 23rd will offer a variety of field trips. Options will range from heading into the sky islands of the Davis Mountains to visiting riparian preserves. Dinner on Saturday will be on your own, allowing for exploring the options in Marfa, Ft. Davis, or Alpine, or possibly heading up to the McDonald Observatory for some star-gazing. We will provide a list of options for self-guided stops on Sunday morning as people either head home or continue to explore the region.

Conference registration will open on May 1st. Attendance will be limited to around 75 people, and field trips will have limited space.

Incorporating Passive Rainwater Harvesting in Your Backyard Refuge: A Summary of the Presentation at Build Your Backyard Refuge Day at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge on March 18, 2023

By Diane Stevenson

Megan Marsee, the Water Conservation Program Lead and Kali Bronson, the Stormwater Quality Program Lead with Bernalillo County talked about passive rainwater harvesting. The goal is to capture and allow rain, or stormwater, to reduce pollution in the Rio Grande River. Featured was the recently installed Rainwater Harvesting Learning Landscape at the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center, 6029 Isleta Blvd SW, in Albuquerque has a. Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM Members Judith Phillips and Hunter Ten Broeck contributed to this pilot project in the south valley.

<https://www.bernco.gov/rainwater>

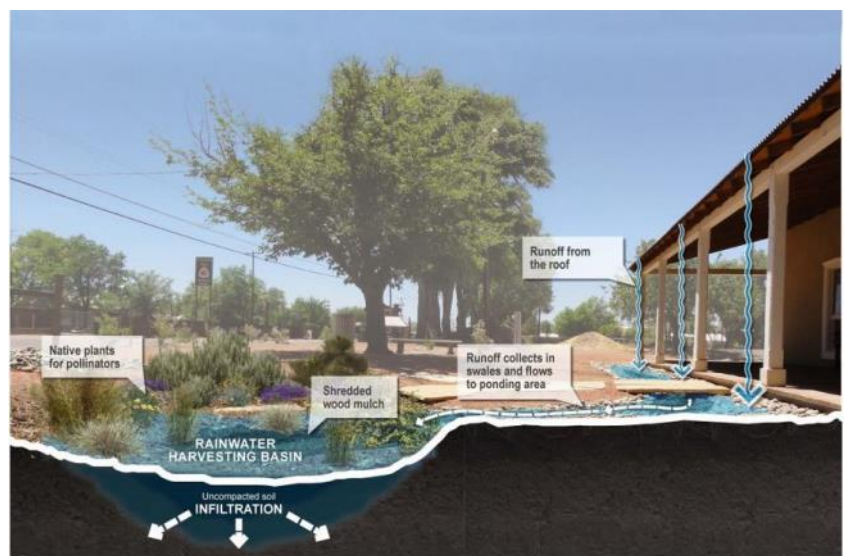
Download a 7-page pdf file titled 'Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plant List'. It guides you through different ecoregions of Bernalillo county and landscape plants suitable for passive rainwater harvesting. Copy and paste the link in your browser: [bernco.gov/plantlist](https://www.bernco.gov/plantlist)

You can learn more about passive rainwater harvesting: what it is, how to design and install swales and basins, and the care and maintenance involved. You can even get training through their videos and become a Residential Rainwater Ambassador in your community.

Megan Marsee and Kali Bronson also introduced the new Irrigation Efficiency Guide: Beautiful Landscapes with Less Water, produced by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABQWUA). A 67-page pdf file, this guide is worth looking at: <https://www.505outside.com/>

As a certified tree-hugger, I like this website Ms. Marsee and Ms. Bronson introduced: <https://www.treesaregood.org/>

For more about the ABQ Backyard Refuge program: <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>



Lee Regan truly went wild with field trips last year—here's where we went:

2022 Albuquerque Chapter field trips — Lee Regan, 2022 Field Trip Coordinator

APRIL

9 (Sat) – Manzanita Mountains, Pine Flats and Sabino Canyon.

23 (Sat) – Chamisoso Trail, Tijeras [leader: Kent Condie]

30 (Sat) – Otero Canyon, Cedro Creek Nature Trail

MAY

7 (Sat) – Milne Open Space, adjacent to Cedar Crest Post Office.

12 (Thurs) – Quarai Ruins, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument.

14 (Sat) – Rio Grande Oxbow and overlook [leader: Lenore Goodell].

20 (Fri) – CABQ Open Space Poole Property plant survey & oxbow overview from adjacent sandy clifftop

21 (Sat) – Petroglyph National Monument, Mesa Prieta

28 (Sat) – Three Gun Springs Trail [leader: Pam McBride]

JUNE

4 (Sat) – Golden Open Space, Madera Rd., NE of Cedar Crest. [Leader: Kent Condie]

11 (Sat) – Garden and Acequia [Leaders: Pam McBride and Jonathan Tanis] at Pam's house & tour of her native garden; followed by a walk through the neighborhood to the Griegos Lateral acequia

18 (Sat) - Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen, NM [Leader: Ted Hodoba, Valencia County]

23 (Thurs) - Sandia Mountain Natural History Center, Cedar Crest. [leader: Lee Regan with SNNHC staff]

JULY

2 (Sat) – Sandia Mtns, East, Capulin Snow-play Area

9 (Sat) – Sandia Mtns, East, Cienega Trail [leader: Marilyn Warrant]

16 (Sat) – Red Canyon, Manzano Mtns [leader: Kent Condie]

23 (Sat) – Sandia Mtns, East, 10 K Trail South [leader: Yasmeen Najmi]

29 (Fri) – Sandia Mtns, East, Rocky Point loop

30 (Sat) - Las Huertas Canyon [leader: Lenore Goodell]

AUGUST – State Conference hosted by Albuquerque Chapter

6 (Sat)

Milne Open Space, Cedar Crest [leader: Kent Condie]

Petroglyph National Monument, Mesa Prieta [leader: Lee Regan]

Rio Grande Oxbow [leader: Lenore Goodell]

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park [leader: Doris Eng]

Sandia Mountain Natural History Education Center, Cedar Crest [leader: Jonathan Tanis]

Sandia Mountains (east), Cienega Trail [leader: Marilyn Warrant]

Sandia Mountains (west), foothills trail [leader: Tom Stewart]

UNM Herbarium (Museum of Southwest Biology) [leader: Steve Rospopo & Hannah Marx, faculty/director UNM Biology]

Yerba Mansa Project area (Rio Grande bosque from Tingley Beach) [leader: Dara Saville]

7 (Sun)

Las Huertas Creek, Placitas, NM [leader: Lenore Goodell]

Manzanita Mountains, Oak Flats / Ponderosa Trail [leader: Lee Regan]

Manzano Mountains: Red Canyon [leader: Kent Condie]

Ojito Wilderness – Seismosaurus Trail - [leader: Steve Rospopo]

Pueblo of Santa Ana bosque restoration – [leader: Carmen Alexander with Santa Ana Restoration Division manager Nathan Schroeder]

Sandia High School biology pond [leader: Jason Roback]

Sandia Mountains, east - Crest Trail to North Peak [leader: Tom Stewart]

2022 Albuquerque Chapter field trips, *continued*

SEPTEMBER

10 (Sat) Strip Mine Trails and arroyo, Placitas [leader: Lenore Goodell]

15 (Thurs) Oxbow Extension (former Poole Property) on Namaste Rd., NW. [Community input to ABQ Open-Space]

17 (Sat) Sabino Canyon Open Space, Tijeras [leaders: Steve Rospopo and Lee Regan]

18 (Sun) Meadow Lake Parks Area Association – MLPAA, Belen

24 (Sat) Golden Open Space, Sandia Park [leader: Kent Condie]

OCTOBER

15 (Sat) East side of Sandia Mountains, part of 10K North Trail

NOVEMBER

12 (Sat) Ojito de San Antonio Open Space (Bernalillo County) exploration of lichens [leader: Jason Roback]

Thank you Lee and Field Trip Leaders for all your volunteering in 2022!!!



New Mexico thistle rosette, *Cirsium neomexicanum*. Wildflower

Photo by Tom Stewart

Meet Rosette

Article and photos by Tom Stewart

Was Rosette my dear, great aunt? No, rosette is the botanical term for a basal, more or less circular arrangement of leaves radiating from a center point. Not all species form rosettes. But when some are very young, small, or dormant, and without a flower, recognizing the rosette can be the only clue to their identity. Knowing the species of a plant at such an early stage may seem like a nerdy game to some, but it can save your garden from a weedy takeover or even support the recovery of an endangered wildflower.



Mediterranean grass, *Schismus arabicus* flowering in March. Weed



Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*. Weed

Yes. When we were working with Daniela Roth, former state botanist, on assessing the population status of the very rare Holy Ghost Skyrocket (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*), she had no choice but to count the rosettes in her sampling area, since they take two or



Prickly lettuce, *Lactuca serriola*. Weed

more years to flower and are inconspicuous beforehand. And what about those special native plant seeds you bought and sowed two years ago and got disappointed when only three of them came up?



Scorpion Flower, *Phacelia integrifolia*. Wildflower

Keep an eye out for unexpected rosettes of that kind, lest you till them under in springtime — three years later!



Field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*.
Weed

Meet Rosette, p2

Spring is a gardener's time of eager anticipation. Pairs of bright green seed leaves (cotyledons) pop up where you have planned a bed of colorful annuals. But when the true leaves develop there are just a couple of rosettes that are beginning to lengthen vine-like, and the leaves are taking a spade shape. Oh no, not European bindweed! (*Convolvulus arvensis*) Kill it quick!

Having been favored with rains in the Albuquerque area this March, an exciting year to come for plant enthusiasts is evidenced by all the rosettes of fall and winter-germinating plants, in the city as well as open space.



Blindeyes poppy (European), *Papaver dubium*. You be the judge!



Gold poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*.
Wildflower

"But they all look so much alike," you might say. Then it's time to notice the small characteristics that distinguish them. Are the leaves fuzzy (tomentose), silky or bare (glabrous)? Are they toothed, lobed, divided or smooth-edged (entire). Prickly?

Find these features in the pictures of rosettes, some are wildflowers and others weeds, by majority opinion.

Just remember that every individual of a species is a little different from the next.



Annual evening primrose, *Oenothera albicaulis*. Wildflower

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO – ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

2023 Monthly Program Calendar

Scheduled monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

<https://nmnaturalhistory.org/> Note: Mountain Road is closed for utility work between 12th and 18th streets. The museum must be approached from Bellamah and 18th St.; go past the "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" sign.

April 5 Meeting: Rewilding at the Candelaria Nature Preserve.

Our speaker, Jeannie Allen, leads the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve, about 65 volunteer citizens who support the City's implementation of a Resource Management Plan on the 167 acre open space Candelaria Nature Preserve. Jeannie will explain the rewilding process and its regional and global connections along with the work of the Friends group, which includes development of an Interpretive Plan guided by the approach taken by the U.S. National Park Service. She will share the origin story of the initiative, beginning about seven years ago when neighbors discovered pesticide use on the property. Eventually a city-sponsored Technical Advisory Group of over 60 specialists devised the Resource Management Plan that outlines a 20-year process for transforming the land from commercial farming to a mosaic of native habitats that will serve as a haven for wildlife and nature study by all visitors.

May 3 Meeting: Removing Invasive Plants from our Open Space. Colleen Langan McRoberts will talk to us about Plant Patrol, a City of Albuquerque Open Space volunteer program, created with the intent to establish a community of volunteers that works to actively restore sites by removing invasive plants. The program provides opportunities for the public to participate in ecological restoration. Trained volunteers control and contain the spread of invasive, non-native plant species in our much-loved Open Spaces. Participants learn how to properly identify and manage specific species using best practices so that native flora can thrive, supporting the ecological health of the environment. (Rescheduled from January, 2023)

June 7 Meeting: Knowing the Sunflower Family in New Mexico. Dr. Richard Spellenberg, professor emeritus from NMSU takes a new approach for the serious amateur to learn the diverse genera and species of plants in the Asteraceae family - learn to recognize taxonomic tribes. The talk will be an introduction to understanding the structure of the flower head in the sunflower family and the value of learning the important feature defining tribes. He will show photos and diagrams illustrating differences among and unique characteristics of the various tribes of the sunflower family. Enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of our many New Mexico sunflowers, asters, daisies, marigolds, cosmos, ragworts, rag weeds, sage brush and more.

July 5 Meeting: Getting to know our Area *Eriogonum*. Lee Regan, Albuquerque member, will provide a visual survey identifying the growth habits and diversity of *Eriogonum* (Buckwheat) species close to Albuquerque and our surrounding region. His slides will show some details of plant progression through the seasons, sharing examples that will help us to identify species we are likely to encounter.

August: No meeting

September 6 Meeting: TBD

October 4 Meeting: John Gorey, topic: NM Thistles

November 1 Meeting: Clayton Meredith, topic: Work by NM BioPark Society to Promote Native Plant Survival. Some of us have participated in seed cleaning for collections done through the project.

December Annual Potluck and Officer Election Meeting: Date and Location TBD

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER 2023 FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Field trip participants should ALWAYS bring water, hat, sunscreen, snacks and lunch, rain gear and appropriate clothing for weather conditions. Some field trips may be announced by email with only 1 week notice. Field trips depend upon good precipitation so field trips may be rescheduled when we know wildflowers are present.

Each year, ALL field trip participants must sign the NPS liability release form before departure. Download, print and sign the liability form & photograph it with your phone and turn it in to the trip leader: <https://www.npsnm.org/fieldtrip-documents/>. Leaders will have forms available on site.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED with the field trip leader no later than 24 hours before the event. Please let us know when you need to cancel. For future field trip ideas or to volunteer as a leader/co-leader, contact our 2023 Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles, Sharon [at] seniorcareoptions [dot] net, 505-604-6307.

Meeting time is departure time. **Be EARLY**

April 4 - NMSU Agricultural Science Center, Los Lunas

Leader: Jonathan Tanis, 973-216-4918, justjontanis [at] gmail [dot] com. Marisa Thompson, will lead us on a ~2 hour walking tour of the facilities, Learning Garden and fruit orchard. Rating: Easy walking on flat terrain; our tour is scheduled for 1:30-3:30. Exact meeting place/time will be provided after registering.

April 8 - Pine Flat and Sabino Canyon, Manzanita Mountains

Leader: Jonathan Tanis, 973-216-4918, justjontanis [at] gmail [dot] com. Pine Flat is where we may find pasque flower (*Pulsatilla patens*), spring parsley (*Vesper constancei*), dwarf lousewort (*Pedicularis centranthera*) and others. Nearby is Sabino Canyon, an open, grassy microclimate. After the field trip, everyone is invited to Jonathan's home in Escabosa (about 10-15 minutes S of Pine Flat) for lunch celebration and a brief tour of blooms. Refreshments and snacks will be provided, but please pack your own lunch. Rating: Pine Flat and Sabino Canyon are both easy hikes of an hour to hour-and-a-half each.

April 15 - Mesa Prieta, Petroglyph National Monument

Leaders: Lee Regan and Sharon Miles lbregan2 [at] gmail [dot] com or 505-792-1479. At the edge of Albuquerque's west side residential development, following a hilly gravel track to the base of lava escarpment, then returning through a sandy arroyo and slight uphill back to the trailhead. We will enjoy beautiful views and plenty of interesting plants.

April 29 - Tijeras Canyon west of Four Hills

Leaders: Kent Condie and Jonathan Tanis, please email or text us if you are coming, kentcondie1 [at] gmail [dot] com 505-359-8120. Easy walk of 2-3 miles round trip, mostly in Tijeras Canyon arroyo near Juan Tabo Bridge We will be looking for early blooming wildflowers in the arroyo floodplain. Meet at 10 AM.

May 6 - Ojito Wilderness. Details TBA

May 13 - Three Gun Springs

Pam McBride, Trip Leader. ebotpam [at] swcp [dot] com (505)780-1262. Parking is limited at the trailhead, meet at Smith's at Tramway and Central, SW side of lot at 8:30 AM to carpool. Limited to 3 full cars. Moderate trail begins in the Monticello subdivision in Carnuel, about 3 miles round trip. We may visit the spring (it was quite overgrown last time) and see what's growing there. Just off the trail in May, 2021 we saw four *Echinocereus* cactus species in bloom (*coccineus*, *fendleri*, *triglochidiatus*, and *viridiflorus*) and a large fendlerbush in full bloom, with at least 30 taxa in flower.

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER 2023 FIELD TRIP CALENDAR, page 2

May 14 - Quebradas Backcountry Byway, east of Socorro

Leader: Lee Regan, [Inbregan2 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:Inbregan2@gmail.com) or 505-792-1479. Moderate hike of 3-4 miles round trip, mostly in arroyos. We will be looking for early blooming wildflowers. Bring raingear, sunscreen and lunch. Depart at 9 AM. We will car pool because of limited parking on the backcountry road; plan to stop at the rest stop along I-25 a few miles north of Lemitar for restrooms. Meet at the Escondida Lake overlook along Pueblitos Road at 10:15-10:30 AM.

May 20 - Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge 50th Anniversary, Spring Fiesta 10am-3pm

Leader: Sharon Miles, [Sharon \[at\] seniorcareoptions \[dot\] net](mailto:Sharon@seniorcareoptions.net), 505-604-6307. Come enjoy the celebration. Guided nature walks, arts & crafts, treasure hunt, exhibits, 10-minute talks on local history and scientific research, games, live animal demonstrations, food cart. See the note by Carol Conoboy for tabling volunteers at this event. Contact Sharon to plan a field trip in the afternoon.

May 27 - BLM badlands, vicinity of Mesa Penistaja, west of Cuba

Leader: Lenore Goodell 505-867-5877 (home), 505-717-6078 (mobile), [fish-eye-of-placitas \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:fish-eye-of-placitas@comcast.net). A unique beautiful remote location with bentonite hills, bits of petrified wood and a selection of great basin plants including sego lilies, barestem larkspur, desert paintbrush and basin fleabane. An easy hike of about 2 miles without trails. We'll drive 78 mile, partly on a dirt road. Parking is limited, therefore carpooling required. Meet at 8:00 AM.

June 3 - Sulfur Canyon in the Sandias near La Cienega. Details TBA

June 9 - Las Huertas Canyon

Leader: Lenore Goodell 505-867-5877 (home) 505-717-6078 (mobile), [fish-eye-of-placitas \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:fish-eye-of-placitas@comcast.net). Las Huertas Canyon is at the north end of the Sandia Mtns. Las Huertas Creek is the only perennial stream in the Sandias. At elevation ~7100 ft, red osier dogwood, hawthorn, chokecherry, butterfly milkweed, inflated penstemon, Bigelow's leather flower are among trees, shrubs and herbs at water's edge and in adjacent grassy meadow. If time and curiosity permits, we might visit the Las Huertas Picnic Area or Sandia Cave Trail. Walking is easy without trail, but one must take care to avoid stepping on plants. Bring insect repellent. The forest road is very rough and rutted. Our stopping place provides limited parking, carpooling required. Meet at 8:30 AM

June 10 - PEEC Pajarito Nature Center, Los Alamos

Leaders: Lee Regan and Sharon Miles, [Inbregan2 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:Inbregan2@gmail.com) or 505-792-1479. Tour a garden with 200+ species of penstemons; 39 native New Mexico species and plants native to each United States except Hawaii; plus Canadian and Mexican natives and 30 cultivars. Seedlings are allowed to growing in the hope that plants best suited to the garden conditions will thrive. We will eat lunch there, then drive to Cerro Grande Lookout south of Valle Caldera (2-3 mile round trip; not including summit.) Info at <https://www.nps.gov/band/planyourvisit/cerro-grande-route.htm>. Meet at 8:00 AM.

June 24 - Eureka Mesa – CDT trail near Cuba

Leader: Lee Regan, [Inbregan2 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:Inbregan2@gmail.com) or 505-792-1479. Hike ~2 miles at the base and early slope of Eureka Mesa, some uphill but NOT climbing to the top of the mesa, which is an approach to San Gregorio Reservoir and San Pedro Parks Wilderness. A description of the whole trail is here: <https://newmexicomeanders.com/2021/05/12/2021-05-08-san-gregoria-reservoir-san-pedro-mts/>
Carpool leaves at 8:30 AM and arrives at the trailhead at ~10:30 AM.

Etcetera

- **At the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE:**
 - **Cactus & Succulent Society of NM Spring Show & Sale**
 - ◇ 4/8/23 (Sat) & 4/9/23 (Sun) from 10 am to 4 pm
 - **Spring Plant Sale**
 - ◇ 4/21/23 (Fri) from 1 pm to 6 pm & 4/22/23 (Sat) 8 am to 12 pm
- **CABQ Spring GREEN waste pickup dates: Monday, May 1 through Friday, May 12, 2023**
<https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/green-waste>
- **ABCWUA Water Smart online Classes this spring; get a one-time \$20 rebate for attending:** <https://tinyurl.com/WaterSmart23>
- **50th Anniversary Sevilleta Spring Fiesta, a free family event**
Saturday, May 20, 2023; 10 am to 3 pm at the Visitor Center
<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/spring-fiesta>

Feedback, articles, photos, book reviews, and news submissions for the Albuquerque chapter NPSNM Summer Newsletter should be submitted via e-mail to Diane Stevenson distevenson331 [at] hotmail [dot] com by June 21, 2023. Thank you!

Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at <http://www.npsnm.org/membership/>

NPSNM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of native New Mexico flora. The Society, and its local chapters, work to educate its members and promote the conservation of our native flora so future generations may enjoy our valuable resource.

Membership Benefits

Members benefit from regional chapter meetings, field trips, an annual meeting, and four issues of the state newsletter each year. Some chapters also hold plant sales and annual seed exchanges and offer discounts on a variety of books providing information on native plant identification and gardening with New Mexico native plants.

Albuquerque Chapter Benefits

Members who show a valid NPSNM membership card

Qualify for Plant World membership

Receive a 10% discount at Plants of the Southwest

NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter

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