

A scenic view of a river flowing through a canyon. The canyon walls are made of layered red sandstone. The river is surrounded by lush green vegetation, including tall pine trees on the upper slopes and smaller shrubs near the water. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

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

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

Editor's Note

Welcome to summer and a beautiful cover photo in the Zuni Mountains by Sharon Miles!

There are always too many activities during the growing season for us native plant enthusiasts.

What's in this issue: the President's Message is on page 3. A botany expedition to the Zuni Mountains is featured on page 4.

I am happy to hear that the City of Albuquerque (CABQ) Greenhouse is growing native plants for use around the city. See the article on page 5 by member John Rembetski, who volunteers at the CABQ greenhouse and is a plant geek like myself. They are growing *Salvia summa* (Supreme sage), considered a rare plant in the wild by NM Rare Plants <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu/node/161>

Pages 6 & 7 have timely news and links about preserving land at the edge of the city and NOT spraying aerial pesticides in Rio Arriba County.

Our monthly meeting schedule is on page 8. Field trips are listed on pages 9 & 10. Pages 11 & 12, ETCETERA, are just some of the other activities going on this growing season.

About the photos on this page: I missed the Quebradas Back Country Byway field trip to learn about the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) beginnings as the Campbell Ranch. A two-Saturday program, we visited closed areas of the Sevilleta NWR early in the season. It was cool and rainy in May, remember?

One week later, rain threatened our safe visit to the Quebradas Back Country Byway to see Ocotillo in bloom after the sunny morning Sevilleta ranch tour. We crossed a number of washes ascending the hill to look back on Strawberry peak near Lemitar and saw rain in our future (left) My partner reminded me it was possible to get stuck between muddy washes for several days on those dirt roads we traveled as college students at New Mexico Tech during a drought. We returned quickly to paved roads and got caught in a blinding hailstorm on I-25. We exited and waited out the storm.

Y'all be safe out there!

- Diane



Tim Hankins botanizing near a watering site on the Sevilleta NWR Ranch Tour, 05/20/23

Photo © Diane Stevenson



Strawberry Peak (L) from the Quebradas Back Country Byway just before a hailstorm on I-25 05/20/23

Photo © Diane Stevenson

COVER PHOTO

Red Box Canyon in the Zuni Mountains, early June 2023. Beaver are active here, creating over six dams and ponds with vegetation. A beautiful location, even in this cropped photo. See page 9 for the unedited photo.

Photo © Sharon Miles



Field trip participants at the Penstemon garden, Pajarito Environmental Education Center in Los Alamos.

Photo © Lee Regan

Presidents Message - Summer 2023

I am astonished at everything our Native Plant Society chapter members have done since the last newsletter. Whether you belong simply because you support our mission or because you enjoy participation, I want to keep you abreast of these doings.

Although the roadwork near the Museum of Natural History has complicated attendance at monthly presentations, the programs lined up by Sara Keeney have been tremendously informative. In April, Jeannie Allen of Friends of the Candelaria Nature Preserve revealed the ambitious scope and long range plans for that major “rewilding” and conservation project in Albuquerque’s North Valley. In May, Albuquerque Open Space superintendent Colleen Langan-McRoberts opened our eyes to the serious worldwide costs of the invasive plant species crisis and how we can help limit its impact in our own community. We were delighted in June at Dr. Richard Spellenberg’s effective and lighthearted discourse on aster family identification by means of grouping the many species into tribes.

May was a great month of community outreach and service. Paleo-ethnobotanist Pam McBride and I were pleased to walk the grounds of the Tijeras Pueblo site and museum with Joelle Hertel who wanted to learn what plants were present and of possible use to the indigenous people of that former settlement. Our table volunteers distributed

literature, native plant information and good will at the Rio Grande Nature Center Spring Festival, followed by the 50th anniversary celebration of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

We returned to the former Poole Property, now under the auspices of Albuquerque Open Space as the San Antonio Oxbow Extension, to survey plant life. Our information may become valuable for managing and restoring botanical diversity in future years. Days later, a group of us made our first official volunteer effort at removing young tumbleweeds from the Rinconada Trail in the Petroglyph National Monument. We shall return after summer rains that will cause remaining tumbleweeds to grow and become obvious.

In June, a bunch of NPSNM members from Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Gila Chapters joined UNM Herbarium staff, students, the New Mexico state botanists and others in the Zuni Mountains for a plant foray and campout in areas where specimens had never been collected or not for many years. We really had fun in the company of so many interesting “plant people” from around the state, obtaining and processing about 300 new specimens. (photo at right)

Our field trips have been popular these several months, with widely different kinds of destinations appealing to people with various interests. It is the dry season as I write this, but flowering continues in the mountains, summer is young, and more excellent trips and service opportunities are in the making. Please stay tuned!

- Tom



Plant Collecting Foray in the Zuni Mountains

Lee Regan

Albuquerque Chapter members Tom Stewart, Sharon Miles and Lee Regan joined a plant collecting foray in the Zuni Mountains conducted by the UNM Herbarium. Twenty-four persons took part in the activity, which spanned June 2-4. Each day, small teams went out from a base at Ojo Redondo Campground, venturing in a variety of habitats, to find flowering plants. Leaders of the teams included former State Botanist Robert Sivinski; the new State Botanist Erika Rowe and her assistant Martin Purdy;



A sea of *Iris missouriensis*, Rocky Mountain Iris, near Shush-kin Fen, June 2023
Photo © Lee Regan



State Botanist Erika Rowe and assistant Martin Purdy at Shush-kin Fen, Zuni Mountains, June 2023
Photo © Lee Regan

UNM Herbarium Collection Manager Harpo Faust; Jim McGrath (now working in Silver City); and a long-time Zuni Mountain resident naturalist, Arch McCallum. Other participants included Don and Wendy Graves, NPS State co-presidents; Hannah Marx, UNM Assistant Professor and Herbarium Curator; and a few UNM graduate students.

The Zuni Mountains – relatively low in elevation, so not spectacularly impressive – comprise more than 500,000 acres. Most of this area is part of the Mount Taylor Ranger District of Cibola National Forest, managed by the U.S. For-

est Service. There is a tremendous range of environments and various plant habitats encountered in its survey. Some of the places we visited included Cerro Colorado, Cottonwood Canyon, Shush-kin Fen, Oso Ridge and Zuni Canyon.



Hannah Marx, UNM Herbarium Curator (L) and Lizzie Lombardi, Post-grad Researcher (R), Zuni Mtns, June 2023
Photo © Lee Regan



Bluewater Creek Canyon, Zuni Mountains, June 2023
Photo © Lee Regan

A wide variety of flowering plants were collected – from common plants that one might expect (New Mexico groundsels, irises, larkspur, phlox) to several uncommon plants growing in canyons and springs. Each day ended with pressing the collected plants in sheets of paper and cardboard for their eventual documentary processing at the UNM Herbarium. After days of successful plant collecting and an all-hands potluck dinner, everyone agreed, this foray should be the first of an *annual* Herbarium event.

City of Albuquerque Greenhouse Native Pollinator Project

By John Rembetski

The City of Albuquerque Greenhouse propagates and supplies plants for city parks, the Albuquerque Garden Center, the ABQ International Sunport, and many City offices. The property includes three large climate- and moisture-controlled greenhouses and several gardens. The grounds include a large demonstration berm, a pollinator garden, a bulb garden, a vegetable garden, a cactus area, and an area for education and experimentation. The plants featured are native and adapted climate-ready and serve as a demonstration of the diversity of plants that grow well locally. This diversity of plants serves many pollinators well.

Among the several gardens, it should be noted that the cactus area has been planted from a construction rescue project in Bernalillo by several volunteers in collaboration with the ABQ Backyard Refuge program. The cactus garden demonstrates plants that can live off of natural rainfall only. Irrigation in the greenhouses is accomplished by drip irrigation and serves to demonstrate how water conservation can be effective with a wide variety of plants.

The greenhouse is managed by Dan Humbles, City Horticulturist. Michael Griego, City Master Gardener, oversees many of the projects. Additional city employees and many volunteers work to propagate plants and maintain the grounds. The gardens are certified by the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program for providing habitat for local fauna and flora. The outreach of the greenhouse includes work with the Albuquerque Area Extension Master Gardeners, several local schools and neighborhood associations. One objective of the facility is to connect with other community organizations, including the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

One of the goals on the greenhouse is to test the viability of propagating and cultivating native plants that are not typically available in local nurseries. There is significant space allotted for native plant production. Plants that are found to be successful can then be propagated and planted in parks, schools, and other public spaces. This increases the awareness of the diversity of native plants suitable for the Albuquerque area. Some of the natives that are currently being grown include *Funastrum cynanchoides* (milkweed vine), *Salvia summa* (supreme sage), *Salvia lycioides* (canyon sage), *Simsia calva* (bush sunflower), *Euphorbia cyathophora* (fire-on-the-mountain), *Monarda pectinata* (plains bee balm) and *Koeleria macrantha* (june grass).

The greenhouse is available for tours. This would include both the greenhouses and the various gardens on the grounds.

Contact Dan Humbles
dhumbles [at] cabq [dot] gov



Clockwise from lower right: CABQ Greenhouse Volunteers having fun while they work. Upper right: *Echinocereus viridiflorus* © D Stevenson on Three Gun Spring Trail, 05/09/23

NEWS TRAVELS FAST

Diane Stevenson

July 1, 2023

Every once in a while, there is good news to share in our quarterly chapter newsletter, *timely news*. I first heard the good news on UNM's KANW 89.1 June 29th about the Elena Gallegos Development Lawsuit.

Read or view the KOB channel 4 news about the Elena Gallegos Development Lawsuit here: <https://www.kob.com/new-mexico/organizers-wins-legal-battle-over-development-of-elena-gallegos-open-space/>

KRQE (channel 13). The blog title says it all “**Permanent injunction protects Elena Gallegos Open Space from future developments**” <https://www.krqe.com/news/environment/permanent-injunction-protects-elena-gallegos-open-space-from-future-developments/>.

An April 26 news article cites another new building site at Tijeras Arroyo Biozone set to include an education center at 15600 Central Avenue (SE): <https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/albuquerque-nixes-elena-gallegos-education-center/>

In my opinion, a better idea might be to build this facility in Albuquerque in areas needing redevelopment where buses run already (west of Tramway Boulevard). It would bring nature education into our city's existing infrastructure rather than expand into habitat for native plants and wildlife.

GOOD NEWS FROM A BAD SITUATION – I received a petition request June 27 from the list serve at New Mexico Wild to prevent aerial pesticide spraying of Carbaryl on large numbers native grasshoppers and crickets in the Rio Chama Ecosystem in Rio Arriba County, NM on July 7, 2023. After telephoning the New Mexico Environment Department for information, I was given state & federal websites on pesticides and insects (pollinators).

State and Federal websites on pesticides:

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/aes/pesticide-compliance.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>

CURRENT NEWS about aerial pesticide spraying in Rio Arriba County as of July 1, 2023:
Xerces Society announcement that pesticide spraying is stopped.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/ACTION-ALERT--APHIS-to-spray-toxic-insecticide-over-Rio-Chama-Watershed.html?soid=1102968923571&aid=g6Ubv5tPt1U>

Federal agencies scrap aerial pesticide spray, by Scott Wyland, Santa Fe New Mexican, June 30, 2023

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/federal-agencies-scrap-aerial-pesticide-spray/article_6ef9b584-16e8-11ee-a356-0f6e79d52311.html

Plan to spray pesticide in Rio Arriba County halted; Farmers had asked for help with grasshopper infestation, by Alaina Mencinger, Staff Writer, Albuquerque Journal METRO & NM, July 1, 2023, P A3

I suggest these alternatives: 1. gather the grasshoppers and crickets in large numbers, cook and eat them like cultures around the world do for protein. 2. Set up a funding page for area ranchers that need replacement feed for their range animals. 3. Use agricultural spray planes with hoppers to help put out forest fires with flame retardant.

The Ecology of Insect Management

Diane Stevenson

I am an ecologist and *former* licensed restricted use pesticide applicator. Carbaryl, trade name Sevin®, is a broad spectrum insecticide. By definition, an insecticide kills insects; a 'broad spectrum' insecticide can kill *all* insects, including beneficials. The target grasshoppers and crickets are New Mexico natives. Spraying will affect the entire terrestrial and aquatic watershed ecosystems of the areas sprayed with the pesticide (pesticide, by definition, kills pests). That means birds, reptiles, mammals, and other wildlife feeding their young anything sprayed could possibly kill this year's babies. Think food web bioaccumulation.

According to Tom Stewart, there are many species of grasshoppers; only a few are a threat to forage grasses. The other grasshoppers may be important in control of less desirable plant populations. There is a story of exactly this sort of campaign being used as soon as grasshoppers were seen to be numerous. It turned out that the grasshoppers were mostly eating mustard weeds. The result was predictable for any good entomologist. Institutional memory is short when it comes to quick and dirty solutions and unintended consequences. APHIS should stick to its primary mission of preventing and controlling nonnative invasive species and determine the exact species and diet of this year's target grasshoppers (and crickets? Oh, the noise pollution!) before indiscriminately killing off native and nonnative alike.

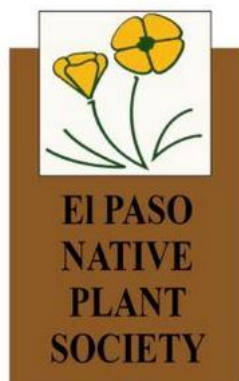


Castilleja integra, Indian Paintbrush, grown from seed in the landscape, 06/10/23
Photo © Diane Stevenson

**It's not too late to register for the 2023 NPSNM Annual State Conference
hosted by the El Paso Chapter**

Thursday, September 21 through Saturday, September 23

Alpine, Texas



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.

July 5 Meeting: Getting to know our Area *Eriogonum*. Lee Regan, will provide a visual survey identifying the growth habits and diversity of *Eriogonum* (Buckwheat) species close to Albuquerque and our surrounding region. His slides 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—summer break

September 6 Meeting: The Natural History of Pines. Renee Galeano-Popp will talk about "Project Pine Cone", the natural history of our New Mexico pines and the sad story of White pine blister rust. She hopes everyone will learn something they didn't know before about pine trees.

September 21—23, Annual State Meeting hosted by the El Paso Texas Chapter in Alpine, Texas

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



Antelope Horns on a horse trail? June 2023, *Asclepias asperula* (See R. DeWitt Ivey 5th ed, p 88 for an antelope comparison drawing) on Cienega Horse Trail, Sandia Mountains

Photos this page © Doris Eng

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER FIELD TRIP CALENDAR July - September 2023

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 e-mail with only 1 week notice. Field trips depend upon good precipitation and may be rescheduled when wildflowers are present.

Each year, ALL field trip participants must sign the NPSNM liability release form before departure. Download, print and sign the liability form (photograph it with your phone) and give the form to the trip leader: <https://www.npsnm.org/fieldtrip-documents/>. Leaders will also have forms available.

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

Meeting time is departure time Arrive Early

Saturday, July 8 - Eureka Mesa – Continental Divide Trail (CDT) trail near Cuba

Leader: Lee Regan, lbregan2 [at] gmail [dot] com or 505-792-1479. Hike about 2 miles at the base and early slope of Eureka Mesa. Some uphill but NOT climbing to the top of the mesa, (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 to arrive be at the trailhead at about 10:30 am.

Saturday, July 15 - New Canyon and Capilla Peak, Manzano Mountains

Leader: Kent Condie, kentcondie1 [at] gmail [dot] com or text 505-359-8120. Hike will start at the trail on the road to Capilla Peak Observatory and end at the New Canyon Campground, a distance of about 4.5 miles, moderate up and down; downhill after we reach the New Canyon trail. Spectacular views of the Rio Grande Rift. Includes wildflower scouting and discussing geology of Proterozoic rocks along the trail and uplift of the Manzano Mountains in the last 30 million years.

Additional information: We will leave some cars at New Canyon campground & trailhead below Capilla peak & shuttle hikers to the crest. We will return to the crest later to retrieve cars at the trailhead. The hike will take about 3-4 hours with about 3 hours driving time round trip to Albuquerque.

We need 3-4 high clearance vehicles for this field trip.



Red Box Canyon Reflection, uncropped cover photo

© Sharon Miles

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER FIELD TRIP CALENDAR, page 2 July - September 2023

Saturday, July 22 – Sandia Mountains east slope, Cienega Trail

Leader: Steve Del Favero 209-509-8232 – Moderate, 3-miles: access to parking area on left side of Sandia Crest Road (Hwy 236); start at lower picnic area; trail mostly gradual uphill through a meadow and along a stream with a short, steep, half-mile section before the turnaround point.

Saturday, August 5 – Blue Desert Potluck and Plant Survey in the Manzanita Mountains near Escabosa at Jonathan's place

Leader: Jonathan Tanis, 973-216-4918, justjontanis [at] gmail [dot] com. Blue Desert is a retreat center and hub for social justice and ecological restoration, located in the Manzanita Mountains. In the morning we'll be walking the trails and putting together a plant list followed by a potluck lunch (everyone is invited to bring something to share. However, there will be plenty of food so don't feel obligated). There will be plant keying for those who are interested.

Saturday, August 19 - Zuni Canyon and Quartz Hill in the Zuni Mountains

Leader: Lee Regan, lbregan2 [at] gmail [dot] com or 505-792-1479. 10 miles southwest of Grants, NM. The field trip will leave Albuquerque at 8:00 a.m.; travel time to Grants is 1-1/2 hours. We will stop briefly in Zuni Canyon to see roadside flowers, then proceed to Quartz Hill at the south end (head) of Zuni Canyon. Walking distance will be ~3 miles round trip on a dirt track through a meadow and gradual rising slope.

Saturday, September 9 - Santa Fe Asteroid Impact site

Leader: Kent Condie, kentcondie1 [at] gmail [dot] com or text 505-359-8120. We will hike on the Burn trail in the Hyde Park area east of Santa Fe, a distance of about 4 miles round trip, moderate, a total of about 800 ft of elevation gain. In addition to late summer wildflowers, we will examine deformational features in the Proterozoic rocks that were produced during an asteroid impact some 300-400 million years ago.



Turquoise Mountain (Mt. Taylor), from Cerro Colorado in the Zuni Mountains, June 2023
Photo © Lee Regan

Interested in getting more involved in our chapter?

Serve the Albuquerque Chapter as State Board Representative

ETCETERA

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship- Applications Due August 4, 2023. The Friends will award 4 scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to four undergraduate college students who are planning to pursue an environmentally-focused career or are currently enrolled in an undergraduate conservation/environmental degree or certificate program. If you have questions, please contact Joan Morrison at joan [at] friendsofvalledeoro [dot] org or 860-209-2328.

ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>

- ◇ Want to create your own backyard refuge but need a coach? I can be your Neighborhood Ambassador. Contact Diane Stevenson at 918-207-5335 or distevenson331 [at] hotmail [dot] com

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

<https://friendsofbosquedelapache.org/festival/>

- ◇ Festival of the Cranes - Celebrate the Return of the Cranes with us December 6 – 9, 2023
Come see stunning birds in vast numbers who travel the world to be in New Mexico's back yard. Four days of expert seminars & field workshops at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Fabulous auditorium & meeting rooms at Macey Center, located at New Mexico Tech in Socorro

Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area

<https://friendsofwhitfield.org/>

- ◇ A great place to visit!
Saturday, August 19, from 9:00 – 1:00, Laura will be conducting a Field Trip Volunteer Training for anyone interested in helping her this coming school year with the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area portion of her environmental education program. After she visits any one of several local elementary schools and completes her in-class curriculum, the students visit Whitfield for a hands-on experience. Laura currently has several volunteers and would like to offer the opportunity to others who would like to work with children and have a passion to share their enjoyment and curiosity of the outdoors.



Left: *Yucca intermedia*, Sevilleta NWR, 05/20/23; Right: *Cirsium neomexicanum*, New Mexico Thistle on Embudito Trail, Sandia Mountains, 05/28/23
Photos © Diane Stevenson

ETCETERA, etcetera

The **Black Range Naturalist** quarterly periodical July issue is available

<https://www.blackrange.org/the-black-range-naturalist/>

Albuquerque Garden Center

<https://www.albuquerquegardencenter.org/>

Their gift shop benefits all garden clubs and has essentials for your home garden

Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque

<http://xericgardenclub.org/calendar.html>

◇ Saturday July 8, 2023, Tour of The Xeric Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat Demonstration Garden 10am

Plant Strategies for Surviving Drought and Description of Plants in this Habitat. Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Boulevard NE

◇ Saturday Aug 26, 2023 Docent Led Tour 9am – The Xeric Garden Park/City of Albuquerque.

Judith Phillips, landscape designer, garden writer, teacher and activist with 30 years experience designing arid-adapted and native gardens in the high desert of New Mexico will speak about “The Xeriscape Park: Changes Over 30 Years”. Her presentation will also include other topics she wants to share with our members.

New Mexico Cactus Society

<https://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org/UsefulLinks.html>

Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at <https://www.npsnm.org/about/join/>

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

2023 Board of Directors

President: Tom Stewart

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Secretary: Dara Saville

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Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski

Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson

Conservation: Pam McBride

Outreach Events: Carol Conoboy

Core Group (essential volunteers)

Books: Lee Regan

Communications: Carmen Alexander

Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles

Publicity: Janet Mura