

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

A group of hikers is seen from behind, walking along a dirt trail on a grassy mountain slope. The hikers are wearing hats and backpacks. The landscape is lush with green grass and scattered trees, with more mountains visible in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds.

NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2023

Thank you 2023 Field Trip Leaders

Native Plant Society members love field trips to botanize, learn about geology and habitat and socialize. A big *thank you* goes out to everyone who has coordinated, scouted plants for, and/or led field trips.

What's up for next year?

We can't wait to find out.

Editor's Note:

I call it Adventure September because I was home only 12 days. Hence, the newsletter is a little late. I was able to enjoy the El Paso Chapter's Alpine, Texas conference and a visit with family in the area. The photo you see below is a cottonwood tree rooted in the water table on White Sands National Park's full moon hike a week later. Mostly silhouette, its roots to the left were uncovered by blowing sand. We hiked up the dune from this tree to be in the canopy of more cottonwood trees deeply buried by the gypsum sand of the park. Awesome!



Happy Fall Y'all!

— Diane

COVER PHOTO

Botanizing along Timber Ridge in the Magdalena Mountains, August 22, 2023

Photo © Lee Regan

President's Message

Tom Stewart
September 22, 2023

I write this from Alpine, Texas, where the small El Paso chapter has done the miraculous. They have recreated our annual reunion with Native Plant Society members from all over, this time in a greener corner of the Chihuahuan Desert, north of the Big Bend. We hosted the statewide conference in Albuquerque last year and know it was a lot of work, despite our greater resources. So, a big congratulations to El Paso.

2023 gave us a difficult summer, heat like no one remembers and a no-show rainy season. Even native plants in our natural areas and gardens laid low, many delaying or skipping their usual blooming season. Still, the optimistic among us enjoyed some very special field trips in late summer and early fall. I hope more of you will join us in the future and not miss out on something special that New Mexico offers. 72°F in the mountains when it's 96°F in the city, plus spectacular views and a kaleidoscope of plant life in the high country.

No, we can't minimize the hardships facing us and the environment from climate change. We and nature are in this together, even though we have come out of a culture that thought it could prosper by defeating nature. No can do. Nature has billions of years of experience with change, recorded in millions of genes in a diverse flora and fauna. Hope for the future lies in that diversity, not by fighting it. Bringing some wildness into our lives, either by visiting a natural site or gardening with native plants in town can connect us with that hope.

We share delight in the overnight response of plants and ourselves after a little rain or a sudden cloud-burst. "Happy plants?" That's for you to decide. Here I share the words of a much loved song written by David Mallett and sung by legendary folk singers Peter, Paul and Mary (PPM) among other artists. *Garden Song* celebrates our connection to nature and gratitude for the gift of rain.

Chorus

*Inch by inch, row by row, I'm gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below 'til the rain comes tumbling down.*

*Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones, we are made of dreams and bones
I feel the need to grow my own 'cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain, I'll find my way in nature's chain
I tune my body and my brain to the music of the land.*

*So plant your rows straight and long, temper them with prayer and song
Mother earth can keep you strong if you give her love and care
Now an old crow watching hungrily from his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free as that feathered thief up there.*

If you have not yet had a heart-warming experience today, check out a PPM reunion performance of *Garden Song* before a family audience here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHhRyJwYnX0https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHhRyJwYnX0>

Songwriter Dave Mallett singing *Garden Song*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m0LewjkO4s>

-Tom

From our facebook group page:

Manzano Adventure

Article by Lee Regan

ABQ NPSNM Facebook Admin

Kent Condie, Field Trip Leader

Photos by Lee Regan & Kent Condie

July 29 - A small but enthusiastic group joined Kent Condie for a car shuttle / hike in the Manzano Mountains, driving up the forest road to Capilla Peak; hiking from there, heading south on the Crest Trail to Osha Peak then down the New Canyon Trail to a car left there. The weather was clear and we enjoyed wonderful views along the Crest Trail, with lunch under a comfortable group of pine trees. Flowers were scarce but not absent on the ridge – including Fleabanes, Hairy Golden Asters, Mountain Spray, Harebells, and early Goldenrods.



An unusual sighting along the New Canyon Trail, were Arizona Thistles [*Cirsium arizonicum*]. The New Mexico Thistle Guide, by Robert Sivinski (NPSNM, 2016) says about this native, “There are four named varieties in New Mexico. . . Variety *bipinnatum* is the most widespread with purplish flowers and tomentose leaves (covered by a dense layer of short hairs) that are usually sessile (attached directly by their base without stalks).” Download pdf at <https://www.npsnm.org/books>

Clockwise photos: field trippers, *Cirsium arizonicum*, Arizona / Shaving Brush Thistle, ditto, *Senecio eremophilis*, Cutleaf Groundsel with visitor.



NPSNM-ABQ Autumn Outreach Activities

Contact Carol Conoboy:

carolconoboy [at] gmail [dot] com

We finished the summer with Summer Wings tabling indoors at Rio Grande Nature Center August 12 on a hot, blistery day.

It is easy to volunteer. First time volunteers will work with experienced volunteers and board members; come and enjoy the fun!

October 21: Build Your Backyard Refuge Day: 9:30am-1:30pm, at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge visitor center. Volunteer some time at our ABQ NPSNM booth by signing up with Carol Conoboy, or visit the friends of the Valle de Oro website and work on the refuge.

Join us for Build Your Backyard Refuge Day at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge on
October 21st from 9:30am - 1:30pm!
The full schedule will be announced in early October.



Build Your Backyard Refuge Day

Saturday, October 21 — 9:30am - 1:30pm

Learn how to certify your space as a backyard refuge & how to receive a free rain barrel!

Enjoy booths, talks, and walks with experts in native plant landscaping, rain water harvesting, pollinator habitat, & more!

Consult with our Neighborhood Ambassador Master Gardeners about growing habitat in your yard!

Bring native plants and seeds from your garden to swap with others!

Receive free starter plants, seeds, and more!

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center · 7851 2nd St SW

Logos for Friends of National Wildlife Refuge System and ABO Backyard Refuge Program are included.



WILDLIFE ZONE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center & Plaza

FREE FUN for kids (and grown ups) of all ages!

Rescued Wildlife · Face Painting
Games · Prizes
Young Birders Guided Walk
(No Reservations Required)

More Information:
www.friendsofbosquedelapache.org/wlz
facebook.com/friendsofthebosque

Friends of Bosque del Apache

Images of an owl, a man's face, and a child with binoculars are included.

October 21: Wildlife Zone (WLZ) - a stand alone event, separate from Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Set-up 8:30am. Event 10am-3pm. Contact: JulieAnna Blomquist, Event Manager, Festival@friendsofbosquedelapache.org, 575.405.8434

December 6-9: Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes December 6-9 2023, Socorro, NM. Check with Carol Conoboy for dates and times (TBD) we will be tabling during this 4 day event.

Rain Barrel Math Diane Stevenson

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, I had a two-inch rain in less than three hours as recorded in the rain gauge (photo at right) in my south vegetable garden.*

It filled all my rain barrels: two 33-gallon heavy duty trash barrels, one 50-gallon (free to me) rain barrel for participation as core habitat in the Friends of Valle de Oro's Backyard Refuge program <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/> and two 5-gallon buckets (126 gallons.)

Think about it, Albuquerque gets about eight inches per year on average. The problem with cities is that we cover up the ground where rain cannot infiltrate and replenish ground water. What do we cover the ground with? Roads, buildings and other surfaces that are impervious. Impervious surfaces do not allow infiltration of rainfall and snowmelt. Concentrated storm water runs off into roads and arroyos as they collect pollutants. Someone downstream is drinking this water after cleaning and purification. It might be you. All water is recycled.

Why don't *you* have rain barrels or cisterns? I suppose the main reasons are that you'd need to maintain it and prevent the barrels from becoming a haven for disease-carrying mosquitos.

Need more math to get you that first rain barrel or cistern set up at your home or business?

A few statistics:

- 50% of my 7,059 ft² ABQ city lot is covered in impervious surfaces.
- My impervious roof area is 2,871 ft²; plus 688 ft² paved areas (driveway and sidewalks).
- A one inch (1") rain can yield 623 gallons of rainwater over 1,000 ft² roof area
 - The formula: **1 inch of rain x 1 sq. ft. = 0.623 gallons**
 - Total theoretical amount I could have collected from my roof (2,800 ft²) in that 2 inch rain:
Over 3,488 gallons!

Another impervious surface would be created for a HUGE cistern, so it is not practical to have a tank that would collect half that amount.

*My house had another 1" gentle rain on September 12 overnight; my home got monsoon rains.

Need more information?

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has a webpage called 'Water Use & Conservation' where you can find rainwater harvesting information and other water conservation resources:

https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/wuc_homeOwners.php

For example, there is a downloadable pdf called **Roof-Reliant Landscaping™; Rainwater Harvesting with Cistern Systems in New Mexico**. This document will tell you everything you and your personal mechanical engineer will want to know (it's a 94-page document.)

A 4-page flyer on their website entitled **A Waterwise Guide to Rainwater Harvesting** will get you started.



"All our achievements are only possible because of our members' dedication. We're here because we all love plants and are concerned about our environment. That's the glue that binds us together and enables us to work together in unity of purpose. The work, and the fun, and the mystery and magic of nature never ends." - Outgoing president George Oxford Miller, Winter 2020 Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM Newsletter

A Field Trip to Zuni Canyon Story and Photos by Lee Regan

The Zuni Mountains comprise 515,000 acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service in the Mount Taylor Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. Grants, New Mexico, is the nearest city. Located only 80 miles from Albuquerque, this extensive area of forests and meadows is not well known. A field trip on August 19 served as an enjoyable introduction.



We followed a stop in Zuni Canyon by walking along a meadow approaching Quartz Hill – the result was a combined list of nearly 50 wildflowers. These included many common species and a few special observations, such as both Purple-and-White and Yellow Owl Clover; Comb-leaf Evening Primrose; and Golden Tickseed. We also encountered a few species whose identities we continued to debate – it's always fun to follow our botanizing with a challenge for future observations and research.

Photos: clockwise from upper right: Adventurers in Zuni Canyon, Golden Tickseed, Zuni Canyon road, Purple and White Owl Clover.



Plant Survey and Potluck at Blue Desert Retreat in the Manzanita Mountains with Jonathan Tanis August 5



Yes, it was hot

Everyone had fun

Beautiful juniper

Happy Jonathan

A Tuesday Field Trip to the Magdalena Mountains

Lee Regan, ABQ NPS facebook group

Five adventurers from Albuquerque, led by Tom Stewart, traveled to a distant country (the Magdalena Mountains) on Tuesday August 29 to see ----- flowers! The Timber Ridge trail afforded a relatively easy hike along meadows with fabulous views of the surrounding mountains. (Only Doris Eng expended the extra energy to climb Timber Peak itself - hooray Doris!) The flowers included Beautiful Fleabane; lots of Parry's Sunflowers; Woolly-whites; and no lack of Skyrockets. But the best part of getting to a special locale is seeing many new or less-frequently observed plants...



Penstemon pseudoparvus, San Mateo Penstemon, a New Mexico rare plant: <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu/node/138>
Photo © Lee Regan

Magdalena Mountain Camping Diane Stevenson



Rusby's Primrose, *Primula rusbyi*

Photo © Lee Regan

The road to New Mexico Tech's lightning research lab and low orbit observatory holds a lot of good memories for me. It was one of the first places many of my classmates at NM Tech (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology) frequented. Sometimes we drove part way up to camp and relax; other times we hiked along the road. It was a more primitive road before the observatory was built near the lightning research lab. Just past the Water Canyon campground is a low elevation relatively flat road where we hiked with our toddler son in his baby pack.

My first flower hike was the 2018 trip that was well attended with about 20 people. The abundance of flowers did not disappoint, neither did the spectacular vistas from near the mountain top. It was a fantastic hike then and I knew it would be worth visiting again, flowers or no flowers.

We decided to camp the night before the flower hike near Water Canyon. Several members of ABQ NPS scouted the hike on a prior Saturday (if you can't make it on a weekday hike, ask about scouting the hike). The area got a good amount of rain as evidenced by washouts along the low elevation road (remember that hailstorm in the Quebradas Backcountry byway mentioned in my

last newsletter?)

When Craig and I drove up the road on Monday, we camped much closer to the ridge than we had intended. There *had* been substantial rain at higher elevation. We walked to the trailhead from our campsite while awaiting the Tuesday group; the peace and sounds of nature were incredible. Although we did not join the hiking group due to my altitude sickness, we descended to the Water Canyon picnic area and all was well. A great trip!

What made Timber Ridge in the Magdalena Mountains a special field trip for you?

- ◆ I can see why Timber Ridge trail in the Magdalena Mountains is George Miller's favorite field trip. The drive was awesome with spectacular views of mountains and deep valleys all the way to the top. The trail was amazingly easy because the trail followed the mountain ridge. The views and flowers just blew us away. - Sharon Miles
- ◆ At 9,500 feet, it's the best place I've camped. - Craig Stevenson
- ◆ Wild, remote, pristine, so worth the effort. - Tom Stewart
- ◆ This is one of my favorite hikes in NM! It's gorgeous, with views galore and wild flowers everywhere! Ironically, it was nice to be on a hike where we were all "botanical novices"; less intimidating. - Candace Stoughton



These silly people were bound and determined to frolic in the meadow of *Ipomopsis aggregata*, Scarlet Gilia, at Timber Ridge, 8/29/23.

Photo © Doris Eng



Silene laciniata, Indian Pink or Scarlet Catchfly on Timber Ridge, Magdalena Mountains

Photo © Lee Regan



Sedum cockerelli, Cockerel's Stonecrop on Timber Ridge, Magdalena Mountains

Photo © Lee Regan

Editor's note: You may be interested in this book, though it's focus is not on native plants per se. Judith's past work has inspired me to be a better grower and ecologist. Here is information from UNM Press on the book. Judith's book will launch in October. For more information:

<https://www.unmpress.com/9780826365224/the-gardens-of-los-poblanos/>

The Gardens of Los Poblanos by Judith Phillips

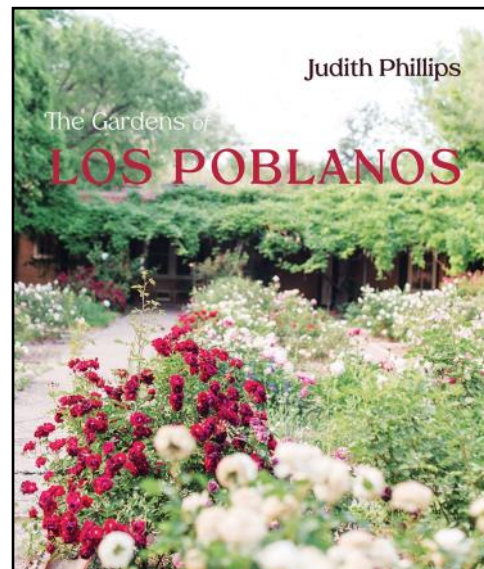
New Century Gardens and Landscapes of the American Southwest
(series)

Published by: University of New Mexico Press 10/01/2023

160 Pages, 8.50 x 10.00 in

Hardcover, nonfiction \$34.95

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Description

In *The Gardens of Los Poblanos*, landscape designer and garden writer Judith Phillips recounts the history of these world-renowned gardens and demonstrates the ways in which the farm's owners, designers, and gardeners have influenced the evolution of this unique landscape. Phillips showcases how the changes in landscape style and content are driven by cultural expectations and climatic realities, and she discusses how the gardens of Los Poblanos have helped preserve the deep agrarian roots of the village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Although plants are always a focus for Phillips, she demonstrates how gardens are more than plants and how plants are much more than mere fillers of garden space.

Contributors

Judith Phillips is a landscape designer, garden writer, teacher, and activist with more than thirty years of experience designing arid-adapted and native gardens in the high desert of New Mexico. She is the author of *Growing the Southwest Garden: Regional Ornamental Gardening*; *Plants for Natural Gardens: Southwestern Native and Adaptive Trees, Shrubs, Wildflowers, and Grasses*; and *Natural by Design: Beauty and Balance in Southwest Gardens*.

We All Love Good News:

Don and Wendy Graves, our State NPSNM Presidents, sent the Albuquerque Chapter a thank you card this summer for the Albuquerque Chapter's donation of \$5,000 to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund.

Native Plant Society-Albuquerque Chapter October - December 2023 Meetings

Scheduled monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of the month (except August and December) at 7:00 pm in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, across from Tiguex Park near Old Town in Albuquerque. <https://nmnaturalhistory.org/> **After months of road work, Mountain Road is open again giving access from both east and west (Rio Grande Blvd.) to the Museum.**

Meetings and presentations are free and open to the public. Masks are optional. You may bring water for yourself if you wish, but no food from home is allowed by the facility.

Meetings start about 7:00 pm after everyone is seated and any announcements are made. You are welcome to come early, about 6:45 pm for socializing and browsing our native plant books for sale.

For more information on programs, contact program coordinator Sara Keeney at [abq \[at\] npsnm \[dot\] org](mailto:abq@npsnm.org)

Wednesday, October 4 Meeting: John Gorey, Rare Thistles of Southwestern NM. John Gorey was doing invasive plant surveys in the Gila Wilderness in 2021 when he came across a dark purple thistle. He keyed the species out to Graham's thistle (*Cirsium grahamii*), a species not seen in nearly 20 years. He followed up his sightings with a survey for the rare plant in 2022. He will present his findings from 2022 and 2023 as well as a new exciting, rare plant expedition in the high elevation Mogollon Mountains in 2023.

Wednesday, November 1 Meeting: Investing in New Mexico Plants: Building a seed bank at the ABQ BioPark. Clay Meredith, Species Survival Officer for Plants at the New Mexico BioPark Society will detail the BioPark's efforts to collect and study seeds from under-conserved rare plants. The talk will cover the basics of seed banking, the process of building our facility, our recent efforts to collect, and the BioPark's plans to experimentally propagate species from around the state.

Saturday, December 2, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Annual Holiday Officer Election and potluck lunch at Pam McBride's house, 5409 9th St. NW. Please park along 9th street, not in the driveway.

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to become an officer of our chapter in 2024. Your support is essential to our organization. Volunteer candidate position descriptions are found on page 2 of our bylaws. Download bylaws at the bottom of our chapter page: <https://www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/albuquerque/>

If you have questions, ask any of our current board members.

GET INVOLVED in planning for 2024!

Field Trip contact Sharon Miles: [Sharon \[at\] seniorcareoptions \[dot\] net](mailto:Sharon@seniorcareoptions.net)

Program contact Sara Keeney: [abq \[at\] npsnm \[dot\] org](mailto:abq@npsnm.org)

- ◆ Or contact any board member and come by our booth at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge's Build Your Backyard Refuge day, October 21 with your ideas.

Festival of the Cranes December 6 - 9 Celebrate the Return of the Cranes with us!

This year's registration is being cared for by our partners at Corazon Events. Please call 505-890-4381 if you have any questions.

- Event Schedule released September 11
- Additional photography classes and field trips lead by photographer Mark Buckler will be released this week
- Members of the OASIS can register on October 9 (Join the OASIS by initiating a monthly contribution in any amount that fits your budget!)
- Friends Member registration opens October 10 (Join the Friends by giving a one-time or an annually recurring donation.)
- Registration opens to the public on October 11
- Fabulous auditorium & meeting rooms at Macey Center, located at New Mexico Tech in Socorro

Etcetera

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/lands/tijeras-biozone>

ABQ open space – new areas

9/22/23 KRQE news

City of Albuquerque acquires 145 acres of Open Space Property

Oct 14, 1-3 pm site plan meeting

If you are a subscriber, you have received New Mexico Wild news in your e-mail. If not, go to the New Mexico Wild website for important announcements from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

<https://www.nmwild.org/news-updates/>

The latest edition of The Black Range Naturalist is available for download here:

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

Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Valencia County has a summer newsletter available on their website:

www.friendsofwhitfield.org

“Supreme Court water ruling will be costly for NM” See Albuquerque Journal article by Eddie Moore, July 7, 2023. NM doesn’t have a state agency with a permitting program for water pollution; unless something has been done since 7/7.

“Congressional watchdog describes border wall harms” See Albuquerque Journal A5 on Friday, September 8, 2023. Report from US General Accounting Office.

Albuquerque Water Utility Authority has Water Smart Classes that can offer you a rebate: <https://www.abcwua.org/conservation-rebates-workshops/>

Remember: No Sprinklers 11 am to 7 pm through October 31.

The City of Albuquerque’s (CABQ) Fall Green Waste pickup is 7 am Monday, 11/27/23 through Friday, 12/8/23 on your regular trash day. Separate your bags of leaves, etc from trash & recycle bins. The specifics are here: <https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/green-waste>

TIP: It’s too close to the busy Thanksgiving weekend for my taste, so start your pruning and weed cleanup now.



Tarantula Hawk Wasp, our state insect, on *Asclepias subverticillata*, Horsetail Milkweed, near El Malpais visitor center south of Grants, NM. These wasps vacuum up aphids, particularly on *Asclepias* spp., according to Judith Phillips.

Photo © Kent Condie

Looking east toward the road to Water Canyon (dark line in center) from Timber Ridge (about 10,000 ft elevation). Socorro peak in near background, Manzano Mountains in far background.

Photo © Diane Stevenson



Need contact information for a board member? Call me & leave a detailed message or text 918-207-5335. Send feedback, articles, photos, book reviews, and news submissions for the Albuquerque chapter NPSNM Winter 2024 Newsletter by e-mail to Diane Stevenson distevenson331 [at] hotmail [dot] com by midnight December 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

2023 Board of Directors

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Communications: Carmen Alexander

Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles

Publicity: Janet Mura