

NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



# NEWSLETTER

*of the*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2022

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The rare Pecos sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*) blooms against a bluebird sky in September on El Milagro (The Miracle) Conservation Easement in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Image: Christina Selby ([www.christinamselby.com](http://www.christinamselby.com))

## Inside This Issue

- 3 From the President    3 A Land Ethic for Seven Generations    4 Conservation Corner  
6 Chapter Activities & Events    8 NPSNM Lifetime Members    9 2022 Carter Conservation Fund Grant Awards  
9 Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund    10 An Afternoon on the Rio Grande  
11 Annual Conference Info and Agenda    16 Annual Conference Registration  
17 For the Gila Chapter, Collaboration is Key    18 Book Review: Best Wildflower Hikes

### The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

April–June 2022, Vol. 47 No. 2. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Original articles from the newsletter may be reprinted if attributed to the author and to this newsletter.

Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM.

**The next submission deadline is May 25, 2022.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Margaret Ménache, [npsnmnewsletter \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmnewsletter[at]gmail.com).

**Mission** The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is a non-profit organization that strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

### Board of Directors

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### Staff

<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	Lindsey Kirchhevel
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Margaret Ménache
<b>Website</b>	Madeleine Woodward mwoodward095[at]gmail.com

**Membership in the NPSNM** is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our state's unique character, to conserve water, and as a part of the regional ecosystem in support of native pollinators and other fauna. Members benefit from chapter presentations, field trips, plant and seed exchanges/sales, discounts on publications, a statewide conference, and a network of knowledgeable plant enthusiasts.

Joining is easy through our website, [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org), or by mailing your contact information, local chapter preference (if any), and dues to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176). Yearly dues and donations are tax deductible at \$30 regular individual, \$45 household, \$60 friend of the Society, and \$20 for youth (through 26 years) or PK-12 teacher. Higher supporting levels can be found on our website. ❖

#### Changed Your Email Address?

Please notify Lindsey Kirchhevel,  
NPSNM Membership Coordinator:  
[npsnmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmembership[at]gmail.com)

**If you received this newsletter as a hard copy but would prefer it online only, please notify [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm[at]npsnm.org).**

#### Missed an Issue?

You can always find current and past issues of the NPSNM newsletters online: [www.npsnm.org/newsletters/](http://www.npsnm.org/newsletters/)

*Legacy: What we leave behind,  
we give to the future*

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

**For further information,  
contact us at [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm[at]npsnm.org)**

NPSNM is a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization

## From the President

by Tom Stewart

My daughter came home with a new violin bow made of carbon fiber. I learned from her that there are ideal species of wood for many musical instruments and their parts, and that the best wood for bows is pernambuco (*Paubrasilia echinata*), now almost extinct. Therefore, carbon fiber was her choice. Rosewood, ebony, Hawaiian koa, others — all are prized for various instruments and all are endangered.

In the past I sometimes wondered if we really “needed” the Pecos sunflower or other rare and endangered species. But consider how much less rich our culture would be had aboriginal people not discovered special qualities and uses of unique plants and animals. No marimbas if tribal people had not noticed a special tone when striking a stick of rosewood (*Dalbergia*). Do we truly need marimbas?

Well, this is the old, theoretical “cure for cancer” argument you have heard before. Not everything has to have a physical use in order to have essential worth. A richly biodiverse world, the web of life, brought forth and sustained humankind. Can we afford to burn our bridges and eliminate a wondrous gene pool? Psychologically, spiritually, morally?

Native Plant Societies serve a vital role around the world. Although we do much more, just by our presence we remind the public and its leaders about our legacy of indigenous plants that have supported and shaped our cultures, past and present, that distinguish our landscapes, maintain watersheds, provide food and shelter for bees, birds, and on and on. NPSNM needs to stay.

The greatest challenge to the continuation of a volunteer-run organization is not money — we are in good shape there. The challenge, of course, is in motivating volunteers. Like rare plants, every one of our members has something to offer. No guilt tripping here, as many people are understandably too busy or concerned with immediate matters. But the need for a few folks to step up is critical this year as we have our state election of officers this June and July for the next two-year term.

I have learned a lot through personal experience. I have learned that you don't need to know a single Greek or Latin name.

You don't need to be a master or even a mediocre gardener. You don't need oratory gifts, charisma, or to have authored any books. I have proven it myself. So, out of our 800+ members, there must be others like me.



I love this organization, and that won't change when I step down after six rewarding years as president on December 31. It has been a privilege and I will remain to provide tons of assistance and guidance, if asked, to my successor. Hopefully, a new president-elect and vice president-elect will attend the August board meeting as guests and see how we work together so well. Candidates will be welcome to run for all offices (recording secretary, treasurer, membership secretary/archivist), but the ‘Prez’ and VP are especially needed.

I have told you about some things you don't need to know or to be. To be president, VP, or other board member, of this successful organization you do need to work with others, to compromise on occasion, to respect natural science, the environment and especially plants, and to put up with lots of thanks and praise. All of us need to think about every member we know (self included), picture them in a responsible role, and talk with them about it. Potential nominees please contact ask.npsnm [at] npsnm.org with questions. Our operators are standing by! ❖

## A Land Ethic for Seven Generations

by Kathleen Hall, Albuquerque Chapter

The 2022 annual conference of the Native Plant Society invites members and guests to consider the interrelationships of our natural world and what citizens, scientists, and spiritual thinkers are doing today to restore and conserve natural resources for those who will rely upon them in the future. The Albuquerque Chapter, this year's host, is preparing a feast of speakers, visual presentations, hands-on workshops, feet-on-the-ground explorations and hikes that will illuminate the issues we face and examine multiple options for moving forward to the seventh generation and beyond.

The August 5-7 gathering will cover ecological topics in urban and wild areas of New Mexico and the West, and include philosophical and inspirational insights as well. The schedule will be familiar to those who have attended previous conferences. Friday's plenary session opens the event with speakers and visual presentations continuing until late afternoon, followed by an evening reception in nearby Corrales. Saturday morning is dedicated to small-group workshops and hikes of attendees' choices, gathering

Continued page 19

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## Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

### Forest Botanists

NPSNM has sent a letter to the National Forest Supervisors, recommending that they use newly available funding sources to hire Forest botanists. Currently in NM, only the Lincoln NF and the Regional Office based in Albuquerque employ a botanist. A 2009 nation-wide survey by Botanic Gardens Conservation International US revealed severe shortages of botanists at government agencies, a wave of upcoming retirements, and (in response to poor job prospects) an alarming decline in botanical degree programs and course offerings at the nation's colleges and universities. If this situation does not change, opportunities to solve environmental challenges will be lost, and our public and private lands will continue to degrade.

The 2020 Great American Outdoors Act authorizes funding under a Legacy Restoration Fund, annually through fiscal year 2025. According to a USDA press release dated 3/8/21, Forest Service economists estimate that projects funded with these dollars will support roughly 4,400 jobs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$285 million to help the Forest Service address critical deferred maintenance and improve transportation and recreation infrastructure. This Fund will be used to facilitate natural carbon capture, promote public-private partnerships, tourism and recreation, protect public lands, and ensure our national forests are accessible to all by improving recreation facilities, visitor centers, dams, and trails. Other projects aim to increase public access by restoring and repairing roads, bridges, tunnels, and parking areas. These investments will serve as a catalyst for rural economic development and employment opportunities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 invests about \$5.5 billion in lands and resources entrusted to the care of the USFS. The new funding will let the USFS improve wildland fire management and repair infrastructure, both nature-based and constructed. According to a public message from Forest Service Chief Randy Moore, dated 11/15/21, about \$3 billion of that amount will be invested over five years to reduce the risk of wildland fire and restore ecosystems. Chief Moore intends to invest in

the workforce by creating a new occupational series for wildland firefighters, and allocate additional funding to repair trails, restore fish passage, and decommission legacy roads.

Recent proposed amendments to the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species List and Collection Permits Rule (19.2.1 NMAC), when signed by the Secretary of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resource Department, will require the USFS to obtain a state permit for the taking of state-listed endangered plants (including those which are also listed by the federal Fish & Wildlife Service). The definition of “take” will be amended to include “remove, harm, kill, destroy” in addition to “possess, transport, export, sell, or offer for sale any of the plants, or parts thereof, listed in 19.21.2.9 NMAC, from the places in the state of New Mexico where they naturally grow.”

Most of the on-the-ground projects described above will require environmental clearances to avoid or mitigate impacts to rare plant species and important plant communities, manage non-native invasive weeds, obtain state permits where needed, and conduct monitoring and adaptive management into the future.

In addition to ensuring that infrastructure projects can proceed in a timely manner, with net positive environmental impact, botanical expertise is needed to implement the recently revised Forest Plans by all five NM National Forests. The Needs Assessments completed for each Forest under the 2012 Planning Rule identified existing data gaps (inadequate, missing or obsolete information) in the areas of riparian condition assessments, special status species occurrence and distribution, non-native invasive weed surveys, and terrestrial vegetative community condition.

### Movie Review: *Understory*



Screen shot from *The Understory*  
Image capture: Margaret Ménache

The film (link at end of the review) opens with a grainy 1976 newsreel interview of a southeast Alaska resident who was opposed to logging the old-growth forest. To this day, US taxpay-



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ers are still subsidizing old-growth logging at a loss. Raw logs are shipped mostly to Asia, so that the milling and processing jobs are also exported.

*Understory* is produced and narrated by Elsa Sebastian, the daughter of some neighbors of that 1976 interviewee. Not even born in 1976, she is carrying on the previous generation's fight to protect the Tongass National Forest.

The Tongass is part of the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. In response to a massive grass-roots movement, President Bill Clinton in 2001 protected 9 million acres of the Tongass with the "Roadless Rule." That rule has been subject of various governmental and legal maneuvering ever since. Donald Trump's Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue exempted the Tongass entirely from roadless area protections. The day after Joe Biden's inauguration, he issued an Executive Order directing the Forest Service to reconsider that decision. *Understory* was released this past December 7, during the resulting public comment period.

Sebastian was born in Point Baker, a town on Prince of Wales Island, which is surrounded by the Tongass, and raised on her parents' fishing boat. She describes the downsides of such a childhood – "clothes that smell like salmon guts" – but became a fisherman anyway. (Yes there are the gender-neutral or -specific terms "fisher" or "fisherwoman", but she refers to herself as a "fisherman" and that's good enough for me.) *Understory* documents an off-fishing-season voyage on her sailboat, the *Murrelet*, accompanied by botanical illustrator Mara Menahan and Dr. Natalie Dawson, a "bad-ass" wildlife biologist with extensive local wilderness experience who serves as Executive Director of Audubon Alaska.

Director Colin Arisman achieves a contemplative atmosphere. The colors are muted; it is usually cloudy and often raining. I wondered at how the camera takes could appear so smooth while on board a small boat in the wind. The soundtrack seamlessly blends ambient noise and music (original and otherwise) with voice-over narration. Near the middle of the 40-minute film we are treated to a close look at Menahan's paintings, lovely color-themed panels in rose red, golden yellow and a soft orange.

The Tongass forest is a highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystem, globally important for carbon sequestration, but *Understory* is not a science lesson – an animated interlude about forest ecology is probably the weakest section – but rather an immersion into a landscape. The *Murrelet's* crew hike in the forest and in clear-cut areas. They follow a huge Asian freighter as it is loaded with old-growth logs. They visit an indigenous Haida village, where "everyone's dad" was a logger, and where we learn about the cultural connections and present-day economic importance of native plant materials, especially cedar, for traditional arts. Wolves, bears, eagles, and orcas appear on screen.

What purpose is served by this documentary effort, now that the public comment period has ended? Sebastian says she "wanted a story I could tell myself." For the rest of us, we as Americans are presented with something special that we've got (before it's gone)

and shown the many ways in which, as Audubon Alaska Director Dawson puts it, the Tongass NF "is not a renewable resource."

Watch *Understory* here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da2VRt24MA0>



## Crested Butte Wildflower Festival

This year's festival will take place July 8–17, 2022, in scenic, high-elevation (read: much cooler than most of NM in July) Crested Butte, Colorado. The program will be posted at <https://crestedbuttewildflowerfestival.org/>. Sign up early for the popular field trips and workshops, and take advantage of lodging discounts. Program offerings range from art and photography to birding and culinary/medicinal uses. And, of course, botany. Field trips are graded from Easy to Expert, using the green-circle/black-diamond ski run system.

## Chaco Area Leasing Ban

The Bureau of Land Management has formally proposed to withdraw approximately 351,000 acres of public lands surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park from new minerals leasing. This action, published January 22 in the Federal Register, follows President Biden's announcement on November 15 of the Interior Department's new efforts to protect Chaco Canyon and the greater connected landscape, and to ensure that public land management better reflects the sacred sites, stories, and cultural resources in the region.

The proposed withdrawal of federal lands within a 10-mile radius around Chaco Culture National Historical Park would bar new federal oil and gas leasing on those lands. It would not affect existing valid leases or rights and would not apply to minerals owned by private, state, or Tribal entities.

The BLM has initiated a 90-day public comment period and will be hosting several public meetings as well as undertaking formal Tribal consultations. The public may submit comments on the proposed withdrawal until April 6, 2022. More information about the proposal, including instructions to submit public comment, is available at <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-takes-next-steps-protect-chaco-canyon>. ❖

## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on upcoming events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page: First go to [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org); click on Chapters; then select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground. **Covid-19 restrictions** are evolving. **Please check with your chapter for any restrictions they are encouraging or requiring and any restrictions the event venues might require.** ❖

### Albuquerque

Monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. These will be hybrid meetings at the UNM Continuing Ed Building, Room C, 1634 University Blvd. NE. Please observe UNM's Covid-19 requirements. Meeting links are distributed to chapter members via email prior to the meeting. For more information on programs and/or a Zoom link, contact Sara Keeney at [skeeney@swcp.com](mailto:skeeney@swcp.com) or 505-379-3392 or check the Albuquerque Chapter page of [NPSNM.org](http://NPSNM.org). No public field trips are scheduled at this time.

**Apr 6 Meeting.** “Bosque Restoration for a Changing Future.” Andrew Hautzinger, District Director of the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District, will describe his organization's current work in plant selection for robust and resilient Rio Grande Bosque restoration as the climate becomes warmer and drier. The Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is a 97-acre preserve near Belen. The staff is excited about projects that select plants that thrive further south to increase the diversity of native plantings at the Whitfield Complex and beyond. They plan to develop a demonstration grove of a few woody species that are native to the Rio Grande but are now rare or absent from the floodplain. These plantings will be public demonstration opportunities to show what can be done to restore the local bosque with natives that might also have an adaptive advantage to survive in our changing environment.

**May 4 Meeting:** “The making and managing of Albuquerque's Urban Wildlife Refuge: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.” Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge staff will present on the development of the community-based refuge just south of Albuquerque. Katie McVey, Deputy Refuge Manager, and Charisa Bell, UNM grad student intern for the past two years, will describe history of the refuge, community collaboration work, current projects, and the future vision for this land. They will highlight current habitat restoration and management to re-establish a variety of Middle Rio Grande habitats on the refuge.

**Jun 1 Meeting.** Topic and speaker TBA.

### El Paso

Meetings are usually at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Coffee social at 6:30 unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Nonmembers welcome. Info: John White, 575/640-7555; [jmwhite@utep.edu](mailto:jmwhite@utep.edu).

### Gila (Silver City)

Monthly evening programs will be presented in April and May on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Gila Chapter and Audubon members will receive a Zoom link by email; all oth-

ers may request a link from [gilanative@ gmail.com](mailto:gilanative@gmail.com). For more information check our website at [www.gilanps.org/events/programs](http://www.gilanps.org/events/programs).

**Apr 15 Meeting.** 7:00 pm via Zoom. “The Ecology of Herbal Medicine.” Dara Saville, founder of Albuquerque Herbalism, a long-standing bioregional herbal studies program will discuss some of our region's most famous medicinal plants. We'll explore iconic local landscapes, key medicinal plants from those places, and species responses to environmental change. We will also look at what we can learn about medicinal uses of these plants as they play healing and balancing roles in their ecosystems and in our bodies. Moving through these themes, we will discuss several species which are featured in Dara's recently published book, *The Ecology of Herbal Medicine: Juniperus monosperma* (juniper), *Sphaeralcea* spp. (globemallow), *Pedicularis* spp. (lousewort/betony), and *Populus deltoides wislizeni* (cottonwood)

**Apr 23** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Table at Gila Earth Day

**May 15 Noon.** Joint GNPS/Audubon Picnic at the Gomez Peak Picnic Pavilion. The Gila Chapter and the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society will hold a joint picnic for their members. Beverages and hot dogs and the fixings will be provided, but everybody can bring their best pot-luck offering.

**May 20 Meeting.** 7:00 pm via Zoom. “Penstemons – Some of the Most Beautiful Flowers in the World.” Presentation by Russ Kleinman. Penstemons are beautiful members of the NM native flora. Along with showcasing the variety of colors and shapes, we will discuss their adaptations to pollinators, recent changes in their classification, and a new penstemon species that has appeared in our area. Russ Kleinman has been documenting plants in the Gila for 17 years, adding them one by one to [gilaflo.com](http://gilaflo.com).

### Las Cruces

No in-person meetings or field trips are currently scheduled. All forthcoming presentations will occur via Zoom at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. Zoom links will be provided by email and on the NPSNM website before each presentation. Nonmembers email [szygint4@ hotmail.com](mailto:szygint4@hotmail.com) for Zoom link.

**Apr 13 Meeting.** Zoom Presentation: 7:00 p.m. “NMSU Range Club.” Presented by NMSU Range Club officers and club members. The NMSU Range Club is a student club within the Range Sciences program in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences. The Range Club is an active student club and often coordinates botany hikes and volunteer events across New Mexico. The Range Club also has a plant ID team led by Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano that competes at the annual meeting of the Soci-

ety for Range Management.

**May 11** Meeting. Zoom Presentation: 7:00 p.m. “Tips to Identify A Grass.” Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano, NMSU Assistant Professor, Herbarium Director and Curator of NMC and NMCR Herbaria is responsible for guaranteeing the future safety and accessibility of the 120,000 plant herbarium specimens. This unique biodiversity collection is the oldest in the State, started by Professor E. O. Wootton in the late 1880s. Dr. Fuentes-Soriano conducts systematics and taxonomic research; manages, promotes and improves the herbarium; teaches plant science; promotes outreach activities throughout the year; and offers plant identification services to the public.

**Jun 8** Meeting. Zoom Presentation: 7:00 p.m. “Ethnobotany of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” Garrett Leitermann, MA archaeology, of the Las Cruces District Office of the Bureau of Land Management will look at the cultural uses of various native plants found in the OMDPNM. Indigenous knowledge regarding the practical, medicinal, and spiritual uses of plants within their local environments — this traditional ecological knowledge has aided countless generations to thrive within the landscape that is the Chihuahuan Desert and the sky island environments of the Monument. Studying and analyzing ethnographic and archaeological records tell a rich story of people’s relationship to the landscape over time.

**June** Hike and Workshop. Time and date TBD. Check NPSNM website in late May/early June. Garrett Leitermann will lead a field trip at Dripping Springs Natural Area. A workshop at La Cueva group site will be a hands-on learning experience about how traditional ground stone tools were used to process local plant life by past and contemporary peoples. After the workshop, Garrett will lead participants on a hike following the Arroyo Trail to La Cueva. There will be frequent stops to discuss various plant life and people’s cultural relationship to the environment.

## Otero (Alamogordo)

For workshop and field trip details, contact Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert [at] gmail.com, 575-443-4408, or Jennifer Gruger, jengruger [at] gmail.com, 505-710-2924. More information will be available by the beginning of each month.

**Apr 23** Annual Native Plant Sale offering a wide variety of native choices for your gardens and yards. Location to be announced. Anyone interested, who is not on the Otero Chapter email list, please email Jen (jengruger [at] gmail.com) to keep updated on plant availability, location, and time.

**May 27** Field Trip: White Sands Missile Range. We will visit various locations out in the range, possibly including the Eugene Manlove Rhodes gravesite and the residence pools of the white sands pupfish. This trip is subject to change depending on access to the missile range at the time. Email Elva (echoofthedesert [at] gmail.com) to be put on the list for updated information about this event.

**Jun 11** Field Trip. Apache Nature Trail. A 0.5 mile lightly trafficked loop trail near Cloudcroft that features a great forest setting and is good for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for walking,

camping, and nature trips. Meet at 8:00 am at the southwest corner of Florida and Highway 180.

## Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael’s Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso). For more information, check the NPSNM website. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

## Taos

We are scheduling in-person speakers starting in March 2022 with videotaping for future viewing. Unless noted otherwise, meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Videos of past meetings can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/Taos-NPSvideos>. Hikes are more accurately described as 2-3 mile “wanders” for the express purpose of identifying native flora. Hikes will start with meet-ups at 9:00 am and most will conclude by noon/early afternoon unless otherwise noted. For updates, check the Taos page on the NPSNM website, our Facebook page (search for “Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter”), the Taos News Calendar, email TaosNPS [at] gmail.com, or phone Jan Martenson at 575-751-0511. If you’re on our mailing list you will get notifications by email.

**Mar 30** Meeting. 6:00 pm KCEC. “Habitat Restoration and Long Term Ecological Monitoring at Rio Fernando Park.” Ben Wright is the Education and Land Projects Director of Taos Land Trust. The Taos Land Trust site, now known as Rio Fernando Park, focuses on education around agriculture, habitat restoration, and land stewardship. Long term ecological monitoring at RFP will be used to study the effects of climate shifts on surface and ground water, soils, and ultimately on the vegetation and animal habitat across the diverse landscape. (See Ben’s 2019 talk on RFP <https://youtu.be/4Qh7OD8IUho>.)

**Apr 2** Hike. Picuris Trail. Starting near the Taos Junction Bridge, Picuris is one of the best trails for early wildflowers. In the past we have seen a profusion of Pasque Flowers, Easter Daisies, Purple Mustard, Trumpet Gooseberry and Three-Leaf Sumac bushes in full flower. Moderate. Meet at 9:00 am in rear parking lot of St. Francisco de Asís church in Ranchos for carpooling/caravanning.

**Apr 25** Roundtable Discussion. 11:00 am, at tables outside the Greenhouse in Rio Fernando Park. “Cultivation and Care of Native Plants” with Gail Haggard, founder of the retail store Plants of the Southwest and a co-founder of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Come share your experience and bring your questions for a discussion with an expert on native plants of New Mexico.

**May 7** Hike. A Rift Valley Trail— either the Klauer or Overlook Trail, depending on what is blooming [May 14 alternate date if conditions are poor on 5/7]. We’ll wander through sage/scrub habitat on a mostly level trail. If winter moisture cooperates we should see Penstemons, Paintbrush, Evening primrose, various

*Continued next page*

## NPSNM Lifetime Members

Our organization depends on memberships, financial contributions, and service. Your support allows us to further our mission of educating the public about native plants through your passion and dedication to our programs, our outreach, and our grants. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Lifetime Members for their commitment to the NPSNM. ❖

### Pre-2003

Martha Carter	Dr. Eugene Majerowicz
Carolyn Dodson	Judith Phillips
William Dodson	Judy Tribble
Thomas Gibbons	Peggy Wells
Grace Gordon	Mary and Stephen Whitmore
Lisa Johnston	Ellen Wilde

### 2003-2010

Kelly Allred	Roger Peterson
Christine Baker	Ms. Judith Reynolds
Carolyn Gressitt and John Freyemuth	Robert Sivinski
Loline Hathaway	John and Joanne Stockert
Beth Herschman	Pat Ward and Hildy Reiser
Lisa Mandelkern	Eleanor Wooten

### 2011-2015

Karl Anderson	Pamela McBride
Ray and Sylvia Bowers	Helgi Osterreich
Charles and Yvonne Keller	Betsy Shillinglaw
Alan Krueger	Barbara Weintraub

### 2016-2020

Wes Brittenham	Gail Haggard
David Lee Anderson	Katie McLane
Barbara Funk	Tom Stewart
Esther Fyock	Marisa Thompson

### 2021

Peg Crim & Ron Hannan	George Miller
Rachel Jankowitz	

### Chapter Activities, Continued from page 7

small white and yellow composites. Easy. Meet at 9:00 am in rear parking lot of St. Francisco de Asís church in Ranchos for carpooling/caravanning.

**May 20** Field Trip to Santa Fe. All day. Visit Santa Fe Botanical Gardens, lunch at Museum Hill Cafe, then tour a private rock garden. Limited to members of NPSNM only. Reservations required.

**May 25** Meeting. 6:00 pm KCEC. "Plant Pollination Strategies: Food, Sex, and Broken Promises." George Miller is a former president of the Albuquerque Chapter of NPSNM, botanist, professional photographer, and author of several books, including his newest, *Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees, & Butterflies: Southwest*.

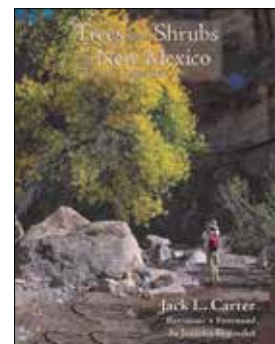
**Jun 11** Hike. Agua Piedra (off Hwy 518). Given enough moisture during early spring, both Spotted and Striped Coralroot Orchids can be found beside the main trail. Along the stream and marshy areas, Shooting Stars, Orange Sneezeweeds, Rocky Mountain Iris, Golden Banner, and Red or Rocky Mountain Blue Columbines can be found en masse. Purple Rocky Mountain Clematis climbs on understory bushes like Serviceberry and Elderberry that also bloom at the same time. Easy/moderate trail. Start time and meet-up location TBA. ❖

### Brand-New 2020 Edition

## Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico

by Jack L. Carter

Fully updated nomenclature



Available January 2021

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While there, browse through our excellent selection of guides for plant and pollinator identification, native-plant landscaping, aridland gardening, and more!



The Gila Native Plant Society is committed to promoting the education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the southwest; encouraging the preservation of rare and endangered plant species; and supporting the use of suitable native plants in landscaping.

*Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone.*

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau*



## 2022 Carter Conservation Fund Grant Awards

by Tom Stewart, NPSNM President

The NPSNM Board might have held their winter meeting by Zoom this year but the business of awarding Carter Conservation Fund Grants was business as usual. Six applications were submitted, all of excellent quality, and all were funded for a total of over \$14,000. Sadly, there were no nominations for the Teacher of the Year award. However, it is not too late to apply or to nominate a grade 6-12 science teacher. Information on how to apply for this \$500 award may be found on our website: <https://www.npsnm.org/education/science-teacher-award-2018/>. While the deadline has technically passed, we are accepting submissions until mid-July.

A Conservation Hero award, with funding provided by the Carter Conservation Fund, is usually decided by the chapter holding the annual state conference, with the recipient announced and honored at the conference banquet.

**Yerba Mansa Project (Albuquerque):** locate and evaluate populations of yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*) in the central Rio Grande bosque, creating a detailed baseline for a long-term trending study. Also collect data on the status of plantings in a bosque restoration site.

**Upper Gila Watershed Alliance:** continuing support for tamarisk eradication on the Gila River to close gaps in Forest Service eradication efforts from Pancho Canyon through the Gila River Bird Area to Bear Canyon.

**Underwing Biological:** Field study to update the status of two rare mountain thistles, *Cirsium grahamii* and *C. vinaceum*, in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests, respectively.

**Mesilla Animal Services (Las Cruces):** establishment of a native plant demonstration garden with high public visibility at an animal shelter in an otherwise stark zone of rapid development.

**University of Texas at El Paso and University of Georgia graduate student research studies:** Two independent and complementary experimental projects will take different approaches to determining the relationships of soil microbes (bacteria and fungi) to grasses and shrubs in the Chihuahuan Desert. The UTEP study will identify microbial species found among roots of desert plants at the Jornada Basin LTER. The UG study will measure plant-soil feedback effects of microbes sampled and seedlings grown at Sevilleta NWR, NM.

We will again make donations of \$600 per group to the **herbaria** at New Mexico State University, Western New Mexico University, University of New Mexico, University of Texas at El Paso, and San Juan College (Farmington). Other herbaria in New Mexico or West Texas are invited to apply for donations by writing to NPSNM, P.O. Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Please spread the word about the availability of our grants among friends, landowners and managers, students, researchers, environmental groups, and other institutions you might know. We are eager to support a wide range of conservation, restoration, environmental education (scholastic and public), and botanical research work. You may learn more about the sorts of projects we fund as well as the application materials on our website (<https://www.npsnm.org/nps-sponsored-grants-donations/>). Applications for the 2023 grant cycle must be submitted by 31 December 2022. ❖



Once valued as a versatile landscaping plant, efforts to eradicate the invasive tamarisk are supported by continuing CCF grants to the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. Image: Margaret Ménache

### Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and nonmembers, along with the investment fund initiated by former Society president Jack Carter and friends, has made it possible for our board to award grants for the conservation and restoration of native plants and habitats, botanical research, botanical education, and our regional herbaria. Awards for Science Teacher of the Year and a Conservation Champion are also presented when appropriate.

Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated, either through our website or with a check made out to “Carter Conservation Fund” and sent to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176). We also welcome applications for grants and your nominations for the teacher award. Details may be found on our website, [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org). ❖

## An Afternoon on the Rio Grande

by Pam McBride, Albuquerque Chapter

My friend Lenore and I meet on a clear, sunny afternoon in February at the Andalucia Park parking lot on the west side of the Rio Grande. It is almost 60 degrees and is one of those days with vivid, intense light for which New Mexico is famous. We walk down the concrete spillway below the parking lot to the levee trail and past the oxbow pond, nearly dry in the winter months. We are headed out to the ephemeral sandbank that Lenore has been photo documenting over the years since its formation during a flood in 2019. We have a mutual interest in this stretch of sand, but Lenore is much more dedicated. We both love seeing what new plant species take hold and which ones disappear, but she visits more frequently than I do.

We look up to see a large brown spiny ball clinging to the trunk of a cottonwood – a porcupine, chewing relentlessly on bark. We head down the path bordered by native coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) and giant reed (*Arundo donax*), an exotic that has invaded much of the middle Rio Grande stretch of the river.

The cattail (*Typhus latifolia*), Lenore notes, as we emerge from the path next to the river, has been more prolific than ever this past year and seems to have outdone the non-native clustered flat sedge (*Cyperus glomeratus*) that was dominant last year. Bunches of the cottony cattail seeds form random pillows of fluff between clumps of plants. *Cyperus glomeratus* is a curious introduction to our state. If you get on the Kew Garden's Plants of the World website, you will find a map with green areas indicating that it is native to about 30 countries in Europe and Asia and one purple square in North America that indicates its introduction into New Mexico, the only introduction into North America. How did this happen, one wonders, when its native range is temperate Eurasia?

Someone has stomped down a path through what was an impassable field of cockleburs (*Xanthium strumarium*) and sweet clover (*Melilotus officianalis*). The clover stems grow in circles, easily tripping an unwatchful walker; but now, bunches of the whorled branches lie adjacent to the path, stacked in bundles, broken off at the base.

Flashes of white, glinting in the sun, alert us to the ring-billed gulls that frequent the Rio Grande during February. There is a large flock of them lazing about on a sandbar in the middle of the shallow riverbed to the east. We cut through the brush to get a closer look and watch.

I say, "I'm used to seeing gulls by the Gulf either dive-bombing for fish or onshore accompanied by Royal Terns. They clump together facing into the wind, forming a buffer from the worst of passing storms. I wonder what these gulls are doing out there?"

Lenore replies, "I think they're just having fun." As we continue to watch, I realize that is exactly what they're doing. They walk or swim upstream and catch the currents downstream like children on a playground slide. Then they turn their bodies upstream to repeat.

I realize I have been species profiling these wild animals into a survivalist category that minimizes their activities to fit into Darwinian expectations and nothing more. I appreciate Lenore's careful observations that allow me to cut through narrow perceptions of the more than



Gulls on the sandbar in the middle of the Rio Grande. Image: Lenore Goodall

human world.

We plow back through the brush so we can look at the slough that runs next to the bosque on the west side of the sandbar. When we get back to the path, my jacket is covered in Devil's beggartick (*Bidens frondosa*) seeds, aptly named. The seeds are flat, about 4-5 millimeters long with two barbed awns that make it easy for them to attach to anything passing by. The generic name *Bidens* literally means two teeth, deriving from the Latin bis, double, and dens, a tooth. Beggarticks, although native, are aggressive homesteaders. I spend a long time removing the seeds so that I don't act as one more vector in spreading them even further.

See photos on  
back cover

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**2022 Annual Conference**  
*A Land Ethic for Seven Generations*

Friday,  
**August 5**  
 to  
 Sunday,  
**August 7**



UNM  
 Continuing  
 Education

**Albuquerque**

Climate change is challenging our stewardship responsibility to conserve water, forests, soils, wildlife, and plants like never before in human history. Come together in Albuquerque to hear scientists, citizens, Indigenous, philosophical, and data-driven perspectives and explore how we can nurture a greater respect for nature and the land ethic we need for the future in New Mexico.

*We are a part of everything that is beneath us, above us, and around us. Our past is our present, our present is our future, and our future is seven generations past and present.*

Winona LaDuke

**Conference Location:** Registration and presentations will take place at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque 87131.

**Accommodations:** Home2 Suites by Hilton, 1660 University Blvd. 505-242-0002

Home2 Suites gives a discount to attendees of conferences at the Continuing Ed Building. To reserve rooms at the discounted rate, use the link below and enter your desired stay dates. These rates have limited availability, so we suggest you make your reservations ASAP. Several hotels are already full in August due to postponed events because of Covid-19.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=ABQDUHT&corporateCode=560056353>

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM state conference. The Albuquerque chapter invites you to donate items that might be of interest to other members.

To offer an item, please contact

Janet Mura — jimjanetmura [at] gmail.com (201) 952-3653

# 2022 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## Albuquerque Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Thursday, August 4

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1:00–3:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting

### Friday, August 5

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#### FRIDAY MORNING

8:00 am–4:00 pm Check-in/Registration, UNM Continuing Education Building

9:00–9:30 am Welcome & Opening Remarks Carol Conoboy, President of the Albuquerque Chapter

9:30–10:30 am **Keynote Presentation: Climate Change and Long-term Ecological Research at Sevilleta**  
Marcy Litvak

10:30–10:45 am Break

10:45–11:30 am **Botanically-Based Environmental Education for Land Health and Human Health** Dara Saville

11:30 am–12:15 pm **TBA**

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch

1:30–2:15 pm **Alpine systems** Hannah Marx

2:15–2:45 pm **Tracking the Wild on an Ephemeral Sandbank** Lenore Goodell

2:45–3:05 pm **Nature's Internet: How Trees Talk to Each Other in a Healthy Forest**  
Suzanne Simard Ted Talk video

3:05–4:15 pm **Student Poster Presentations**

5:00–7:00 pm **Reception** at Carol and John Conoboy's house. 203 El Camino Verde, Corrales

7:00 pm Dinner on your own

### Saturday, August 6

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#### SATURDAY MORNING

##### Field Trips and Workshops

Field trip selections are based on locations of natural or scenic interest, length, and difficulty. Stated lengths of trails are round trip. NOTE: Some trips may be substituted with a similar or alternative destination. Remember to wear appropriate shoes and a hat and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, snacks, and hiking poles where needed. Saturday field trips, leaving from UNM Continuing Education at 8:00 am, return by noon, unless otherwise indicated. Carpooling is encouraged. Special requirements are noted for specific destinations. TH = trailhead. Field trips or workshops marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate a companion event related to a presentation.

##### FT 1 Carlito Springs Open Space, Tijeras

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy/moderate, ca. 3 miles.

Carlito Springs is a historical resort with newly renovated buildings and a spring-fed garden area. The field trip will be a circuit route, climbing moderately from the parking lot on a wooded trail along a creek bed. The well-maintained return trail will circle down a sunnier hillside.

##### FT 2 Milne Open Space, Cedar Crest

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, ca. 2 miles.

A lower elevation field trip on the east side of the Sandia Mountains; examining an open field, a narrow ravine, a meadow, and a lightly wooded forest trail.

**FT 3 Petroglyph National Monument — Mesa Prieta**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** moderate, 3 miles.

At the edge of Albuquerque's westside residential development, following a hilly gravel track to the base of the lava escarpment, then returning through a sandy arroyo and slight uphill climb back to the TH. NOTE: This is NOT a hike for viewing petroglyphs, but offers an interesting array of plants, views, and some impacts of urban development.

**\*FT 4 Rio Grande Oxbow**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, ca. 2 miles.

West side of the river, exploring the unique habitat of a drain and the sandbank left after the 2019 flood. The new land was rapidly colonized by a variety of flowering plants. NOTE: participants on this field trip should have sunscreen, insect repellent and footwear appropriate for possibly wet areas, such as sneakers or boat shoes.

**FT 5 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, 1-2 miles.

Tour of the native plants garden and access trail to the bosque and Rio Grande. Ponds at the visitor's center offer bird and turtle viewing.

**FT 6 Sandia Mountain Natural History Education Center**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, 1 mile.

Orientation and tour of the environmental education facility in Cibola National Forest, on the east side of the Sandia Mountains, visited by classes from Albuquerque Public Schools and other groups. Followed by a flower walk of the grounds and a short trail to an overlook of the East Mountain setting.

**FT 7 Sandia Mountains (west) foothills**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy/moderate, 1.5-3 miles depending on participants' desires and route chosen.

The best location will be chosen upon assessing actual conditions that week. Easily accessed from Tramway Blvd., some modest uphill walking reveals a diversity of high desert flora grading into piñon-juniper and wonderful views.

**FT 8 Sandia Mountains, (east) at the Cienega TH**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** moderate, 3 miles.

Trail through a meadow and woods from a picnic area and a gradual climb along a dry, wooded creek. Access to parking area on left side of Sandia Crest Road (Hwy 236). NOTE: Parking requires a Digital Day Pass, Interagency Recreation Pass or Golden Age Pass. For information, see: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cibola/passes-permits/recreation>.

**FT 9 UNM Herbarium**

**Driving distance:** ½ mile. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, less than 1 mile (from parking area). **Limit:** 15.

Tour of New Mexico's largest herbarium at the Museum of Southwest Biology, 302 Yale Blvd NE, CERIA Building (Bldg. 83).

**\*FT10 Yerba Mansa Project area (bosque from Tingley Beach)**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, 1 mile (or less).

A leisurely stroll in the Project's restoration site in a wildlife management area near Tingley Beach discussing and examining medicinal and edible plants with a central focus on community-based stewardship in the Rio Grande bosque.

**WS 1 Design for Wildlife: How to Create your Refuge Leader: Judith Phillips**

**Time:** 9:00-11:30 **Location:** UNM Continuing Ed Building **Limit:** 10

How do you design spaces that are appealing to both wildlife and the people who live there? We'll walk through the basic steps in creating habitat either from a blank slate/no landscape or within existing gardens. Registered participants will receive resources in advance by email for preparation needed to get the most from the workshop.

**WS 2 Seed Paper Leader: Hollis Moore**

**Time:** 9:30-11:30 **Location:** UNM Continuing Ed Building, SW Patio **Limit:** 8. **Cost:** \$10

The seed paper workshop teaches participants how to make sheets of recycled paper embedded with native seeds. Not only are the seed papers beautiful living artworks, but they also make an excellent mulch for germinating seeds.

**WS3 The Edible Prickly Pear Leaders: Penny and Gary Hoe****Time:** 9:00-10:30 **Location:** UNM Continuing Ed Building **Limit:** 15.

The Opuntia cacti commonly called "prickly pears" are a versatile, nourishing, and tasty source of food. But how do you get past their formidable spiny defenses to prepare fruits or pads for eating? What nutrients does the prickly pear provide? How can the fruits, the juice, and the pads be used in a variety of recipes? Steps, utensils useful in harvesting and preparation, and recipes will be shared.

**WS4 Growing cacti from seed Leader: Ralph Peters****Time:** 9:00-11:30 **Location:** Breezeway UNM Continuing Ed Building

Germinating and rearing cacti from seed is a satisfying way to reduce depletion of these fascinating native plants in the wild and to obtain species that are not always available commercially. The A to Z of the hobby, with a demonstration, practice, materials, and methods.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

- Noon–1:15 pm Lunch on site at UNM Continuing Education Building
- 1:15–2:15 pm **Keynote presentation: Diné Bih Nanise** Arnold Clifford
- 2:15–3:00 pm **The Trifecta Crisis and Natural Climate Solutions** A. T. Cole
- 3:00–3:45 pm **How to Love a Mesquite** Hollis Moore
- 3:45–4:00 pm Break. Silent Auction closes at 4:00.
- 4:00–4:45 pm **Ecology of Sandia HS Pond and Teaching It Forward** Jason Roback
- 4:45–4:55 pm Closing remarks Tom Stewart
- 5:00–5:30 pm Pick up silent auction items
- 6:30 pm Banquet at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Silver and Turquoise Rooms  
Guest Speaker Laura Paskus

**Sunday, August 7****\*FT11 Sandia High School Gardens****Location:** 7801 Candelaria Rd, NE, Albuquerque. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy. **Limit:** 20.

Tour the pond and greenhouse at Sandia High School and view the many species of native plants that Jason has collected and planted and the creatures that call it home.

**FT 12 Sandia Mountains (east)****Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy/moderate, ca. 3 miles. **Elevation:** up to 10,600'

NOTE: persons with breathing problems may find this difficult regardless of terrain. Trails are Conifer to Spruce-Fir-Aspen forests and high elevation meadows. We will select from the best alternative destinations. Lunches and rain gear are recommended because mountain field trips may last beyond noontime when thunderclouds develop. If there are signs of an impending storm, the field trip will be terminated.

**More Challenging****FT 13 Crest Trail to North Sandia Peak****Hiking distance & difficulty:** moderate, 4 miles. **Elevation:** 10,200 – 10,600'

Starting from the Crest House parking lot at the end of Hwy 236, heading north on the Crest Trail to a short spur trail leading to North Peak, then returning. There should be many flowers, a medallion tree, and possibly migrating ladybugs as well as outstanding views. Bring a lunch.

**Heading East/South****FT 14 Manzanita Mountains woodland****Driving distance:** About 45 minutes from Albuquerque. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy/moderate, ca. 2-4 miles. **Limit:** 10.

The Manzanita Mountains are generally low wooded hills with some meadow areas and dry ravines, south of Tijeras.

## **Heading North**

### **FT 15 Las Huertas Creek, Placitas, NM**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, 1-2 miles. **Limit:** 10.

Stopping at places along the only flowing stream in the Sandia Mountains, ending at a picnic area. NOTE: This field trip will meet at the Placitas, NM Post Office; an SUV or high-clearance vehicle is required for the final portion of a very rough road.

### **FT 16 Pueblo of Santa Ana bosque restoration**

**Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, 1-2 miles

Featuring an oral presentation by Santa Ana Restoration Division manager, Nathan Schroeder, and tour of the Rio Grande bosque highlighting some of the Pueblo's past ecological projects, techniques used in management of tribal resources, and challenges for the future.

## **Heading Northwest**

### **FT 17 Ojito Wilderness — Seismosaurus Trail**

**Driving distance:** This field trip will meet at the Home Depot on Hwy 550 west of Bernalillo, NM (in the northwest corner of the parking lot) at 9:00 AM. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy/moderate, 2.5 miles.

The Ojito Wilderness features expansive views of dramatic mesas and dry grasslands incised by arroyos. It is accessed from Cabezon Road (a rough dirt road, but suitable for sedans), just east of San Ysidro, NM. We might spot petroglyphs or reptiles and stop to have lunch.

## **Heading South**

### **FT 18 Manzano Mountains: Red Canyon**

**Driving distance:** About 1.5-hour drive from Albuquerque, southwest from the village of Manzano (road continues on to Mountainair for those headed south). **Hiking distance & difficulty:** moderate, ca. 3 miles.

Several habitats on the lower portion of the mostly wooded Red Canyon Trail. Besides flower observations, this trip will include a discussion of the geology of the Manzano Mountains and rocks along the trail.

### **FT 19 San Lorenzo Canyon**

**Driving distance:** About 60 miles south of Albuquerque off I-25, on the southern boundary of Sevilleta NWR. NOTE: the unpaved road that approaches the canyon (3.4 miles) includes a sandy wash best suited to SUV and 4-wheel drive vehicles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** moderate, ca. 3 miles.

A unique desert canyon that has picturesque rock formations and, usually, a couple of small seeps. Wildflowers may be observed along the approach to the canyon and within the canyon itself. Entrance to the canyon requires a short scramble around a massive boulder.

### **FT 20 Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen, NM**

**Driving distance:** About 40 minutes south of Albuquerque. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** easy, ca. 2 miles.

Perimeter loop with some side detours on flat former pastures and wet meadows; the site also features a cactus garden as well as a pond that attracts birds.

### **WS 5 Successful Germination of Native Plants Facilitator: Peggy Wells**

**Time:** 10:00 am–noon **Location:** Growing Awareness Urban Farm. Map will be provided to participants. **Limit:** 10.

This workshop will offer a presentation explaining how some native plants increase their survival rates by delaying germination. Then, participants may practice some of the treatments that growers use to encourage these “difficult” seeds to sprout. Supplies provided.

### **\*WS 6 Herbal Essentials Facilitator: Dara Saville — 9:00 am–noon**

**Time:** 9:00 am–noon. **Location:** Private Medicine Garden near Pueblo Cultural Center. Map will be provided to participants. **Limit:** 10. **Cost:** \$25. Prepayment instructions will be provided on acceptance into workshop.

A hands-on workshop to engage the senses in herbal food, beverages, and medicine. We will explore a wide variety of ways to prepare herbs for pleasure, nutritive, and healing applications. Recipes will depend on what plants are available at the time of class. We will process the plant material, make the recipes, and sample our creations together on the shaded patio in my medicine garden. Participants will take home samples of all the products that we do not consume during class.

**A Land Ethic for Seven Generations  
2022 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee

Name	NPSNM Chapter		
Address	City	State	Zip
E-mail Address	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	

**Included in conference fee:** Snacks during conference breaks, Friday & Saturday lunches, Friday evening reception (appetizers & drinks).

Fri & Sat lunches. **Please select one:**  vegetarian  meat  gluten free

Saturday banquet (\$30) includes your choice of one of the following entrees plus two sides, salad, dessert, and coffee, tea, or water. There will be a cash bar.

Number of guests who will be attending with you (\$30/guest): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of meals:  Blue corn fried chicken  Brown sugar & mustard roasted pork  
 Marinated heirloom cauliflower steak

**Field Trip/Workshop Preferences (*Please register early; space is limited.*)**

Use numbers/letters listed for field trips/workshops:

**Saturday 8/6** 8:00 am–noon    1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_    2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_    3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sunday 8/7** starts 8 am    1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_    2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_    3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Date	NPSNM Member	Non-Member
On or Before July 10	\$100	\$120
After July 10 *	\$130	\$150
Saturday banquet per person**	\$30	\$30

**TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\* Registrations received after July 28 will not include lunches.

\*\* No banquet registrations accepted after July 20.

**For questions, contact Carol Conoboy (505) 897-3530 or carolconoboy [at] gmail.com  
or Pam McBride (505) 343-9472 or ebotpam [at] swcp.com.**

**Register and pay online at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)**

or

**Send form(s) with check (payable to NPSNM/Albuquerque Chapter) to:**

**Pam McBride  
5409 9th St. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107**

For additional information, please visit

**[www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)**



## For the Gila Chapter, Collaboration is Key

*by Don Graves, Gila Chapter*

Now that the pandemic appears to be waning (fingers crossed) we are all more than ready to get back outside, to start scheduling regular field trips again, and to start meeting face-to-face for evening programs and get-togethers as a chapter. These difficult years have been challenging for us all, but there seems to be a silver lining for our chapter, in that we now have more collaborative ventures than ever before.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to get into the local schools like we used to, but other ventures have presented themselves. For example, the Gila Chapter has been able to work closely with the local Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society, holding joint Zoom programs when a topic would be of interest to both organizations; and, we will be resuming our annual joint picnic potluck at the nearby US Forest Service's Gomez Peak pavilion this May.

We have been sharing Zoom programs and field trip announcements with the Las Cruces Chapter. This February several members of the Gila Chapter made the trek to the Organ Mountains and participated in their "Beginner's Guide to La Cueva Trail" at Organ Mountains National Monument. It has been nice to rekindle friendships begun during the state conference in Alamogordo this past fall.

Also in February, a joint Friends of City of Rocks/Gila Native Plant Society program presented by Dr. William Norris of WNMSU had 49 screen shares on Zoom! The next morning, braving a cold winter wind, fifty members representing both the Gila Chapter and the Friends of City of Rocks State Park met at the park for a field trip focusing on cacti, succulents and winter botany. Our Gila Chapter cadre of botanists held the group's attention for over two hours, despite less than ideal conditions. We have plans to continue this collaboration in the future.

In late February, the Gila Chapter was honored to be a major sponsor of the 9th Natural History of the Gila Symposium, a two day event that featured both face-to-face and Zoom access to the several presentations offered. From lichens to lesser Mexican long-nosed bats, this biennial event offered a venue for student researchers, land managers, conservationists, and educators to meet and share information and ideas gathered from the Gila Region, including watersheds and neighboring areas extending into southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona and Mexico.

The Gila Native Plant Society's former and newly-found collaborative ventures have helped to take a bit of the sting out of the pandemic. Our chapter has benefited greatly from reaching out to other like-minded organizations and we hope to continue these relationships far into the future! ❖



Our GNPS/Friends of City of Rocks State Park joint field trip in January.  
Field trip leader Ed Leuck is up front and center with headband.. Image: Don Graves

## Book Review: Best Wildflower Hikes

by Kathleen Hall, Albuquerque Chapter

Best Wildflower Hikes New Mexico: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Wildflower Hiking Adventures

By Christina M. Selby

Falcon Guides, March 19, 2020

304 pp

Who doesn't love wildflowers?

Who knows where and when to go looking for them? Christina Selby's *Best Wildflower Hikes* guide is the perfect reference for summer adventures and beyond. Her guidebook puts you on the trail to flowers in their seasons, and she packs in facts, inspiration, and photography that is well beyond trail guide expectations. Common wildflower names are used throughout narratives and descriptions for ease of reading, but every common name is included in an appendix with its botanical name. Everyone from wildflower neophytes to passionate botanists will find satisfying science and delicious nectar to sip from every page.

The introduction offers sound advice to novice hikers and visitors to New Mexico – “Bring rain gear...” – and reminds all of us of what makes our state such an ecologically diverse and changeable place. A Trail Finder chart highlights aspects of each hike beyond flora, such as water features, geology, kid-friendliness, wildlife, solitude; hikers can fine-tune their adventure to suit a mood or satisfy everyone in a diverse group.

Forty hike destinations, all on public land, many with alternate route options, are sorted into six chapters representing regions of the state. Each chapter introduction includes a brief highway view of the character of the region – geology, cultures, recreational assets, local flavors.

Each hike description starts with a data section, where the hiker will find planning help: which USDA maps to use, where to check on road and trail conditions, detailed directions to the trail-head, hiking distance and estimated time, and other trail addenda. Beyond the typical trail guide, this one also includes a short list of flowers you might see, bloom season and peak bloom time. The

See photo on  
front cover

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nuts and bolts are precise and well organized to start you in the right direction.

The author then narrates each hike as the reader's personal tour guide, drawing attention to a community of wildflowers at a bend on the path, views of a nearby peak, distant rumble of a river in a canyon. Her ecology background enriches the narrative as she explains why this stretch of trail favors particular species, for instance, or observes how wildfire succession results in an abundance of blooms and the pollinators that love them. Selby illuminates these passages with lush landscape photos, punctuates with profiles of selected blooms, and adds her trail tips: “Rest here to enjoy your lunch...and the feeling of solitude and peace...”

This is a guide to New Mexico's colorful, temporal and often hidden heart, composed by a scientist-storyteller who wants you to love it as much as she does. Get a copy and go there with her. ❖



Cover image from Selby's *Best Wildflower Hikes New Mexico: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Wildflower Hiking Adventures*. Image: Christina Selby

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**Land Ethic**, *Continued from page 3*

again for lunch and more presentations through the afternoon. The annual banquet Saturday evening will be at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Sunday is the second round of small-group activities to conclude the conference.

Friday morning's keynote speaker, Dr. Marcy Litvak, will offer an overview of the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. LTER has been collecting and analyzing data on this unique convergence of subalpine, desert and riparian biomes since 1988. Dr. Litvak is a co-investigator for the Sevilleta program.

Saturday evening's banquet speaker is Laura Paskus, an independent journalist whose print and broadcast work on the environment and native cultures of the Southwest has been widely published. She has covered the Gila River and its allocation issues, the Rio Grande's future, and many other topics in the tapestry of climate change. Be sure to check the box on your registration form for your banquet attendance; you won't want to miss this talk.

A predominant theme of the conference presenters is acknowledging the interdependency of flora and fauna that occupy a specific biome. Dr. Hannah Marx, Curator of the Herbarium at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, UNM, brings her observations on alpine plant communities and their collective responses to climate change. Hollis Moore will use honey mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa*, as a regional case study to illustrate how degraded landscapes may be rehabilitated by collaboration among all the actors in a biome – plants, fungi, animals, bacteria and infrastructure. A. T. Cole practices healthy land stewardship using the interactions of soil, flora, water, native fauna and the cattle he raises and will discuss how grassland habitat restoration can aid in reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide. Lenore Goodell will lead a virtual tour of plant succession on an oxbow of the Rio Grande, photographed over several years as she has studied this urban locale.

Some presenters on this year's conference schedule look to education as a method of addressing the tenuous situation of our survival. Herbalist and author Dara Saville will speak to the importance of environmental education of the public to heighten awareness of climate issues as well as providing ways to take meaningful action. Local educator Jason Roback will discuss how he uses the pond on the Sandia High School campus as a natu-

ral science teaching lab. Arnold Clifford, noted Navajo botanist, will speak on plants and their relationships to Diné people, their spiritual, medicinal and other uses, and their cultural presence in storytelling as a way to educate and pass wisdom to future generations. This year's conference also features a poster display by students presenting their projects in the field of natural science.

Carol Conoboy, Albuquerque NPS Chapter President, suggests that this year's conference will not only be of special educational interest, but the date of the conference, the first weekend in August, allows teachers and students to attend as most schools start later in the month.

NPS members interested in operational aspects of the organization may want to attend the board meeting to be held Thursday, August 4. Time and location will be announced. ❖

**On the Rio Grande**, *Continued from page 10*

Lenore uses her walking stick to poke around under last year's stems and dormant shrubbery to look at emerging green basal leaf rosettes, some identifiable as asters, some a mystery. Although the mystery plants are tugging at our memory banks, we fail to come up with nomenclature and turn back to where we began, passing a tree with beautifully sculptured bark that we know is an ash, but do not know its species. We promise ourselves to return when it leafs out and fruits so we can identify this lone specimen.

Lenore points out spots of green in the slough, identifying them as emerging fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*). I draw a blank and Lenore says, "I know you would recognize it in bloom. Small, erect pink flowers, about a meter tall." This still doesn't help my memory excavation efforts. Back at our cars, we marvel at the gulls, the amazing emergence of green leaves in the middle of February, and then say our goodbyes.

Don't miss Lenore Goodell's presentation on Friday afternoon, August 5th at the annual state conference. She will take us on a photographic journey of plant succession on the sandbank over the course of four years, from the first appearance of unusual native plants to dominance of exotics like tamarisk seedlings and sweet clover as well as some of the tantalizing natives still to be found there. ❖

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## **2022 Annual Conference**

***A Land Ethic for Seven Generations***

**August 5-7, Albuquerque**



The cattail (*Typhus latifolia*) above, photographed in 2021 has outdone the non-native clustered flat sedge (*Cyperus glomeratus*) on the left that was dominant in 2020. Images: Pam McBride.

**Lenore Goodell's talk on an ephemeral sandbank is only one of the informative and fascinating talks at the conference. Read more about her on page 9. Check out the conference agenda beginning on page 10. And don't wait to register for the meeting!**