



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2017

VOL. XXXXII No. 2

### Taos Invites You to Enjoy Northern New Mexico September 14–17

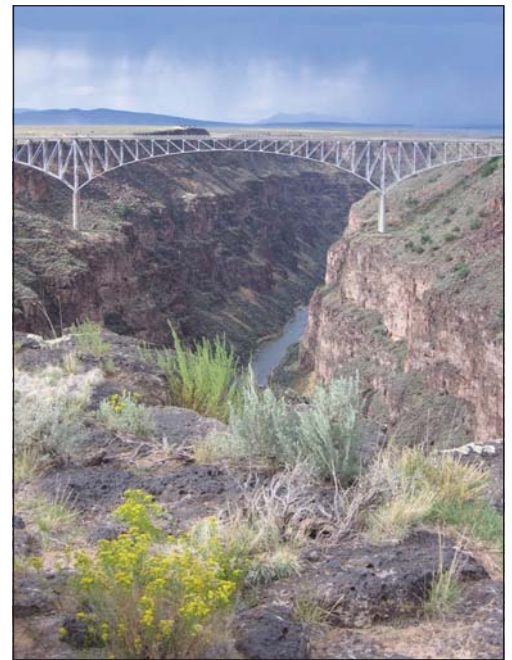


Above, lush with fruit, is a four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). At right is the magnificent Rio Grande Gorge, a feature of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

The Taos chapter is excited to be hosting their third state conference since the chapter was created in 1999. Local historic sites, such as the Taos Pueblo and the church of San Francisco de Asis, stay the same, but there have been some changes: Taos is becoming as well known for its music scene as its art, and we are proud to have in our backyard the second newest National Monument in New Mexico—the Rio Grande del Norte. Several of the offered field trips will take you onto monument lands.

Last year, as we were pondering a theme while considering locations for the conference, a botanist friend recommended a recent book

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Photos: Jan Martenson

*See full details on pages 9–14. Registration form on page 13.*

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## From the President

by Tom Stewart

The word *big* can take on a negative connotation. Consider disparaging terms like Big Government, Big Agribusiness, Big Pharma, Big Brother—from faceless and unresponsive to downright menacing. With well over 700 paying members from New Mexico, Texas, and elsewhere, with a website that no longer provides contact information for the leadership, and with a liability release to sign before taking a field trip, is our Native Plant Society getting too big and impersonal?

Let me explain that website change. Recently, chapter treasurers started getting phony email requests to transfer funds to a foreign account, supposedly sent by chapter presidents! This scam, almost comical in its transparency, was a reminder that we are now in an age of identity theft. Therefore, gone from our website are the phone numbers and email addresses. However, you can still send a message to the state officers by choosing Contact NPSNM under “About” on either the side or top menu of the webpage.

Everything at the NPSNM board meeting in January was the complete opposite of organizational remoteness and unresponsiveness. We awarded grants to nine worthy projects all over the state and to two beyond our borders, as well as to five herbaria in New Mexico and El Paso. We are moving forward on a major makeover of our website,



and the new version will have a members-only section with password protection and the return of contact information. And our meeting was the debut of the new *From Ponderosa to Prickly Pear: Exploring the Native Plants of New Mexico* educational curriculum. This is a creation of the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), whose Southwest Program Director, Melanie Gisler, thanked NPSNM for last year's grant that supported the first printing. The grant has enabled the free distribution of this wonderful resource to many teachers. Downloadable PDF copies are available to everyone.

The most revolutionary way we are reaching out to new segments of the public, potentially working with schools, and supporting local chapters in growing their membership has finally commenced with our selection of an Outreach Coordinator. The excellent candidates surpassed our expectations, and our challenge was in choosing the very best fit—a pleasant predicament! Sara Digby of Santa Fe, whose introduction follows in this issue, is now an employee of IAE and will work for NPSNM half-time. The partnership of our two organizations makes possible some exiting outreach (and “inreach”) possibilities we could not approach by ourselves. Let's wish Sara a most successful and enjoyable association with our Society. ❖

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

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information, [nativeplantsnm@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantsnm@gmail.com).

### Meet Sara Digby, NPSNM's New Outreach Coordinator

Sara has a diverse background in agriculture, herbalism, and native plant knowledge. She has worked with various organizations and businesses providing community outreach, event planning, and education development. She is excited and humbled to be a part of the Native Plant Society, and to continue to spread the love of native plants to communities in New Mexico. ❖



### Meet the Gila Chapter's New (Again) President

Elroy Limmer has been active in the Gila chapter of the NPSNM since moving to Silver City in 2003. He has served the chapter in many ways and was president in 2009–2010. He was recently elected president for the next two years and is looking forward to hosting his second state conference, this one in 2018. In 2013, the chapter decided to expand its activity in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden (see October 2015 newsletter), at which time Elroy was asked to oversee its expansion and development. Through grants, the garden

*Continued page 3*

## 2017 Donations, Grants, and Teacher Award Announced

by *Bettie Hines and Pam McBride*

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 28, 2017, to approve donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso, to review and award grant proposals, and to determine the Teacher Award for 2017.

**Herbaria:** \$600 donations will be given to the following herbaria: University of New Mexico; New Mexico State University; University of Texas at El Paso; San Juan College, Farmington; and Western New Mexico University.

The **Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund** has been able to begin supporting the grant awards. The Society expresses much gratitude and appreciation to the Carters, who generously established this fund, and to all who have contributed to this worthwhile cause. *Please continue to support this fund so that it grows and can support the grants in the future.*

**Grants:** The following grants were awarded:

- Elementary Student Education on the Yucca and Yucca Moth; Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces, NM
- Tribal Youth 2017 Native Seed Collection Crew; Melanie Gisler, Institute for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe, NM
- Updating Central New Mexico Gardens; Virginia Burris, Project Coordinator, Albuquerque, NM

- A Collaboration with the NM Rare Plant Technical Council; Bruce Barnes, Flora ID, Pendleton, OR
- The Yerba Mansa Project; Dara Saville, Albuquerque Herbalism, Albuquerque, NM
- Carex Measurement Project; James McGrath, Botanist, Edgewood, NM
- Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River; Donna Stevens, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, Gila, NM
- Status of Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) Pollinators in Southwest NM; Catherine Cumberland, Graduate student, UNM Dept. of Biology, Albuquerque, NM
- NM Wildlife Center, Land and Habitat Restoration Project; Cheryl Bell, NM Wildlife Center, Española, NM
- Greenhouse Interior Planting Benchtops and Supplies; Richard Crane, Friends of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, Mesilla, NM
- Examination of Chromosomal Configurations in Two Species of *Oenothera*; Anita Cisternas Fuestes, Northwestern Univ./Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL

**Teacher Award:** Marcie Davis, Española Valley High School, Española, NM.

In support of her student classes, Marcie plans to use her award to purchase supplies to collect, label, and store native plants and seeds for propagation. ❖

### Changed Your Email Address?

Please notify Lindsey Kirchhevel,  
NPSNM Membership Coordinator:  
npsnmmembership@gmail.com

### Meet Gila Chapter President *(continued from p. 2)*

has added 80 yards of top soil; built a small amphitheater so students and teachers have a place to study and work; and installed artwork, a kiosk, walking paths, decorative fencing, and many more plants. Today there are over 100 species of native plants in ever-expanding beds. The garden is becoming a destination for visitors to the area, thanks to his leadership and the efforts of many of the chapter's members.

Elroy is an accomplished photographer who is continually photographing the natural world. His first love is insects, but any subject in the natural world is welcome and native plants are a great part of his portfolio. He and his wife Joan love to travel and spend as much time as possible enjoying the wonders of nature and the great Southwest. ❖



Elroy Limmer took this photo of a bee fly, genus *Systoechus*, on an Asteraceae.

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

April–June 2017. Vol. 42 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.

**Next deadline is June 5, 2017.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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**Workshop Coordinator/Discussion Group Moderator** Bob Sivinski

### Staff

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**Administrative Coordinator & Website Editor** Deb Farson nativeplantsNM@gmail.com  
**Outreach Coordinator** Sara Digby sara@appliedeco.org

**If you received this newsletter via email, and would prefer a hard-copy, please notify Deb Farson at nativeplantsNM@gmail.com. Hard-copy front/back covers now in color!**

## Robledo Vista Nursery

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**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.

## Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

### ESA Status Changes

On January 5, 2017, the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced proposals to revise the status of two New Mexico rare plants. Gypsum wild-buckwheat (*Eriogonum gypsophilum*) would be removed from the Endangered Species list, and the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*) would be downlisted from Endangered to Threatened.

As its name implies, gypsum wild-buckwheat occurs on gypsum soils and outcrops. These habitats are dry and nearly barren, except for a handful of other hardy, gypsum-adapted plants. The small, 8" perennial reproduces by seed and through root-sprouting clones. When initially protected as threatened under the Act in 1981, the gypsum wild-buckwheat was known only to occur at one site—on a hill in Eddy County near Lakewood, NM. The Service feared that off-road vehicles, grazing, and the Brantley Dam project threatened the species' survival. In 1985, two additional populations were discovered. Each of the three known populations numbers between 11,000 and 20,000 plants. The BLM, which manages 75% of known gypsum wild-buckwheat habitat, designated Special Management Areas for each of the three populations, thereby limiting ORV and livestock access to the plants. Monitoring of Brantley Reservoir water levels has demonstrated that flooding of wild-buckwheat habitat is unlikely and that the reservoir is not a significant threat.

However, the New Mexico Endangered Plant Program opposes delisting at this time. Their comments to the USFWS make clear that the apparent increase in known rangewide population is a result of greater search effort, and that it is unknown whether the actual population is increasing, decreasing, or stable. Heavy traffic associated with oil and gas development is causing habitat fragmentation and dust deposition. The BLM SMAs protect only half of the occupied habitat, and only provide a "no surface occupancy" stipulation for new leases, which may not apply to existing leases, within the SMAs. And there is no guarantee that the SMAs would remain in place in the absence of the ESA listing. Invasive weeds have been documented in the vicinity of all three populations.

Kuenzler hedgehog cactus is a small cactus found on

slopes of sandy gravel and amid rocky outcrops in southern New Mexico's Great Plains grasslands and oak or piñon-juniper woodlands. It has contorted, white, chalky-textured spines and large, magenta flowers that bloom only after the cactus reaches 4–5 years of age. In 1979, only a single population of 200 plants was known. Today, there are 3,300 individual cacti in 11 known populations within the cactus's

southern New Mexico range. When listed, primary threats to the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus were its small, single population, private and commercial collection, road and real estate development, and livestock grazing. Under the Act, searches for additional cactus locales and population monitoring increased and land management improved. The illegal collection of the cactus is now less of a threat due to availability of legally propagated cactus in the commercial market. Where road construction has occurred in occupied areas, individual cacti have been avoided or mitigation has been provided, which should continue if the species is reclassified as threatened.

Residential development has not been a threat due to the preference of the plant to grow in dry, rugged locations not favored for development. The BLM and Forest Service have fenced out livestock to protect the cactus from livestock trampling. Thus development, livestock grazing, and collection are not considered by the Service to be significant threats at this time. Additional threats, including drought and climate change and changing fire regimes, have been identified. The Service has initiated a species status assessment for the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus. Information garnered from the assessment will guide the final determination on the cactus's downlisting and instruct an updated recovery plan that fully addresses 21st-century threats and provides a road map for recovery.

The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program also op-



Gypsum wild-buckwheat.

Photo: Ben R. Grady



Kuenzler Hedgehog cactus.

Photo: Robert Sivinski

### Conservation Corner *(continued from p. 5)*

poses downlisting the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, on the basis of lack of information on population status and viability. It is unknown whether all of any of the 11 local populations are viable in the long term. They note that the newly identified threats are of a widespread and long-term nature, and suggest additional possible threats that have not been evaluated: insect and rodent predation, pollinator limitations, and invasive species. The state recommends that, prior to downlisting, the Service update the species recovery plan for each species using new information to establish measurable recovery criteria.

### Public Lands Transfer

House Republicans passed a procedural change in January to make it easier for Congress to transfer federal land to state or local government agencies. The provision prohibits the Congressional Budget Office from taking into account lost federal revenue from energy production, logging, recreation or other uses when it decides whether a piece of legislation is revenue-neutral or would contribute to the federal deficit.

Rep. Raul Grijalva (Ariz.), the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, urged his colleagues to vote against it, saying: “The House Republican plan to give away America’s public lands for free is outrageous and absurd. This proposed rule change would make it easier to implement this plan by allowing the Congress to give away every single piece of property we own, for free, and pretend we have lost nothing of any value. Not only is this fiscally irresponsible, but it is also a flagrant attack on places and resources valued and beloved by the American people.”

Then Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced bill HR 621, that would have sold off 3.3 million acres of public land in 10 western states. There was a predictable public backlash, and it appears that it was hunting-and-fishing advocates, a key Republican constituency, who ultimately influenced Chaffetz to withdraw the bill less than two weeks later. But he’s not done yet: Chaffetz has introduced HR 622 to “terminate the law enforcement functions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management” and hand over authority to local departments. NM Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich calls that one “a gift to poachers and drug runners.”

Last year Ryan Zinke, our new Secretary of the Interior, stepped down from the committee writing the GOP platform due to the party’s position favoring land transfers. It remains to be seen whether Sec. Zinke will continue to resist public land transfers when they would result in net losses to the public. NPSNM will remain vigilant for any such deals that may be proposed in New Mexico.

Sources: Timothy Cama, 1/3/17, “House GOP Moves to Ease Federal Land Transfers,” *The Hill* (<http://thehill.com>);

Chris D’Angelo, 2/27/17, “How Opponents Sank a GOP Bill to Sell Off Federal Land—and What They Learned,” *Huffington Post* ([www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)).

### Gila National Forest Planning

Last fall the Gila NF released its Draft Assessment Report. This report is intended to “rapidly evaluate information about ecological, economic and social conditions, trends, and sustainability” relative to 15 assessment topics. The 25-megabyte document is hardly “rapid,” but it does provide quite a bit of information about existing conditions and trends affecting various resources on the Forest. NPSNM sent a comment letter in which we pointed out some obscure or unclear language, recommended baseline invasive plant surveys, and reiterated our concerns about removing plant species from consideration for special status due to lack of information about their status or distribution.

The Gila chapter sent their own letter to the Forest, in which they also emphasized the need for data collection about rare plants, and recommended greater attention to the impacts of grazing and to the effectiveness monitoring of watershed and burned-area restoration efforts. The chapter also provided a spreadsheet listing suggested additions to the at-risk and Species of Conservation Concern plant lists. The spreadsheet compiles information from local botanists, from the website [gilaflo.com](http://gilaflo.com), and from sources used in the Draft Assessment document. Several species are included that have not yet been found within the Gila National Forest. However, those species have been found within the three counties that contain the forest boundaries: Grant, Sierra, and Catron. Since many rare plants are difficult to find, the fact that some have not yet been discovered in the Gila NF does not mean that they don’t exist there.

### Santa Fe Cholla Conservation Areas Update

In a collaborative effort between the Santa Fe Institute, the community of El Dorado, the NM Native Plant Society, the Cactus Rescue Project, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, the NM Forestry Division, and a host of volunteers, permanent conservation sites were established for the endangered Santa Fe cholla (*Cylindropuntia viridiflora*) in 2015 at the Santa Fe Institute and the El Dorado Wilderness. Over 100 plants were planted at the Santa Fe Institute in Santa Fe and over 400 plants were planted in the El Dorado Wilderness. One year later the transplants are off to an excellent start: 90% and 83% of the monitored individuals survived, respectively. Some of the larger plants were even flowering! Mortality is largely attributed to rodent or rabbit predation.

### Pinyon Pipeline Application Withdrawn

Due to current market conditions, Saddle Butte San Juan,

*Continued page 18*

## New Mexico Close-Up

by Bob Sivinski, NPSNM Workshop Coordinator/Discussion Group Moderator

Though the online version of the NPSNM newsletter is always in color, beginning this issue, the front and back covers of the print version will be in color as well. What better time to introduce a new feature?

Here is a challenge to NPSNM photographers. Let's have a regular "New Mexico Close-Up" article that features at least one close-up photo of any New Mexico native plant or pollinator. I'll start with the state grass (see photos on back cover). Subsequent articles need not be as long, but should include an accurate identification and a paragraph or two on the subject. So grab your macro lens and let's have some fun with this.

### Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

Adopted as New Mexico's State Grass in 1973

by the New Mexico State Legislature

The tall-grass prairie ecosystem that covered much of the vast North American interior has largely been destroyed and converted to row-crop agriculture. Many of the native plant and animal populations, as well as native human cultures, in the tall-grass prairie ecosystem have been eliminated or rendered mere shadows of their former glory. The more arid short-grass prairies, however, are still extant and thriving in large areas that lack the irrigation aquifers needed for farm-

See photos  
on back cover!

ing. Blue grama is the dominant native grass of the short-grass prairies ranging from southern Canada to Mexico and is especially abundant on the foothill regions of the southern Rocky Mountains. Both New Mexico and Colorado have adopted blue grama as their official state grass. It is the common ground cover in the northern half of New Mexico. Blue grama occurs in all New Mexico counties and is absent from only our highest mountains and driest deserts.

Blue grama is a warm-season grass that takes advantage of the convergence of hot days and late summer rains. It is most productive, and usually flowers, in August and September. This is a short grass that grows only 6–12" tall. Rarely cut for hay, the bounty of blue grama is, instead, its significant cover over semi-arid, open plains and hilly savannas and its ability to withstand heavy grazing. There are fourteen species of grama grass in New Mexico and some, such as side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*) and hairy grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*) are regionally common. Yet blue grama is, by far, the most abundant and important for forage and control of soil erosion. Its gracefully curving flower branches leaning over in autumn and winter winds are characteristic of New Mexico's high prairies and piñon-juniper woodlands. ❖

## Throw That Ball!

by Barbara Fix, NPSNM Membership Secretary

In a case of cultural diffusion, the germ of an idea from the Native Plant Society of Texas has taken hold in our region: bicyclists throwing out seed balls along trails in need of restoration. That sounds like a way to have a good time and get a job done, too.

For many years, governors of New Mexico have proclaimed the third Saturday in August as Native Plant Day. This year it's August 19. The Santa Fe chapter is looking at connecting with other groups, such as Master Gardeners and a youth group, to make seed balls with local native seeds and plans to celebrate Native Plant Day with a bicycle group and others throwing out seed balls along our trails in need of revegetation.

There are a lot of possibilities in all our communities. A single person can collect native seeds in the wild and roll them into little balls. Then take a hike and toss them out where appropriate. Hikers and wanderers can do the same. Think about it. It's going to be a lot of fun. ❖

## CRESTED BUTTE WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Crested Butte, Colorado

July 7–16, 2017

Full details: <http://crestedbuttewildflowerfestival.com/>



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**Taos Invites You** (continued from p. 1)

by Thor Hanson: *The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses and Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History*. Reading that book gave us an “Aha” moment. Given that our favored location wasn’t available until mid-September, when the most dominant feature of our native plants is the seed phase, we chose as our theme **The Seed: Past, Present, and Future**. We contacted Dr. Hanson and are pleased to announce that he has agreed to come to Taos and be our Friday morning keynote speaker!

Following that theme, we will examine seeds through archeological, botanical, and cultural lenses in the context of the history and three cultures of northern New Mexico. Our program comprises speaker presentations all day Friday and Saturday afternoon, with workshops, field trips, and hikes offered on Thursday afternoon as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings. In addition, the Taos chapter invites you to a reception early Friday evening at the Millicent Rogers Museum, where we have planted native gardens. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and light appetizers will be served, but we hope you’ll then dine at one of several fine restaurants in Taos.

We are fortunate to have procured a quiet, wooded location for our conference. The Fort Burgwin campus of SMU-in-Taos is located about 8 miles south of Taos at 7,500’ within

the Carson National Forest. An academic center for Southern Methodist University, it has become popular in recent years for retreats and conferences. It lies near two streams and is close to six plant life zones and across the street from the archaeological study site of Pot Creek Pueblo. You can walk the nature trails anytime and learn more about the history of Pot Creek and the fort, as well as the area vegetation, during a few of our field trips. If you seek peace and quiet, some housing is available on the campus (information will be available on the Conference website in early April).

The campus facilities at our disposal include the auditorium, a dining hall, classrooms, an art barn, and the Miller Campus Center, where we’ll hold our silent auction. There are shaded outdoor decks for relaxing and communing with nature or your fellow Native Planters. The Taos restaurant-trained chef and her staff at Fort Burgwin are proud of their organic, locally sourced food (all made in-house) with an emphasis on local specialties such as mango chicken enchiladas and green chili posole. You won’t want to miss their homemade soups and desserts. Dietary restrictions will be happily accommodated. Snacks and two lunches are included in the registration fee. Saturday night’s banquet is offered at \$25, with a cash bar offering adult beverages.

See you in September! ❖

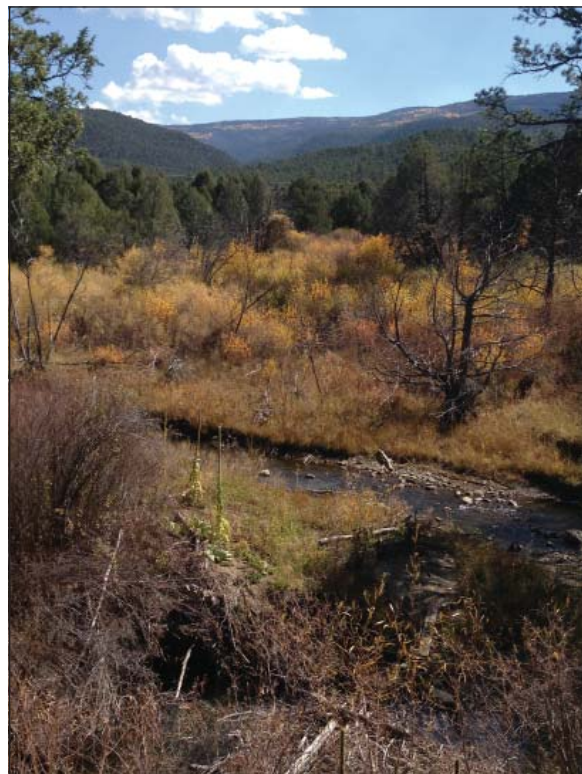


At left is an example of the “flower fold” book form being taught in Annual Conference Workshop B. This example uses images of *Iris missouriensis*. Photo: Carol Farmer



Above shows the grounds of, and at right, the view from, SMU-in-Taos/Fort Burgwin, site of the Annual Conference.

Photos: Mary Adams





Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
**2017 Annual Conference**

# The Seed: Past, Present, and Future

Thursday,  
 September 14  
 to  
 Sunday,  
 September 17

Native Plant Society

of New Mexico



SMU-in-Taos  
 at  
 Fort Burgwin  
 Taos, NM

**Conference Location:** The meeting will be held at the campus of SMU-in-Taos on the grounds of historic Fort Burgwin. When entering Taos from Española on NM-68, turn south on US-518 for about 6 miles to the second entrance on the right.

**Accommodations:** We have arranged for special conference rates at the following hotels, located 7–8 miles from Fort Burgwin, on the south side of Taos. Ask for NM Native Plant Society room block; prices listed are per night and do not include tax. All offer hot breakfasts and Wi-Fi. Hotel reservations should be made *prior to August 14* to ensure conference rates. Cancellation policies differ, so call to inquire. **Sagebrush Inn & Suites**, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/758-2254: \$119–\$149. **Hampton Inn**, 1515 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/737-5700: \$129. **Quality Inn**, 1043 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/758-2200: \$99, pet-friendly (\$20 extra/night). ❖ Lodging is also available on the **Fort Burgwin** campus, ranging from semi-private rooms to 3-bedroom/2-bath casitas. These accommodations are available for 3-night rentals only. This information will be available on the website for the conference after April 1. Bookings for this housing will be made with the Taos chapter, *not* with SMU-in-Taos/Fort Burgwin, and will be paid for separately from registration. Call Jan, 575/751-0511, or email [taosnps@gmail.com](mailto:taosnps@gmail.com) with any questions. ❖ **Camping: Taos Valley RV Park & Campground**, 7.5 miles from Fort Burgwin, 120 Estes Es Road 575/758-4469 (<http://taosrv.com>): offers full hookup for \$30–\$34/night, tent camping for \$25 per night. **Orilla Verde Recreation Area** (part of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument), 20 miles west of Fort Burgwin off NM-68: seven campgrounds on the river bank near Pilar, no reservations (first come, first served), \$7/night/vehicle for tents, \$15/night RVs, hookups available. **Agua Piedra Campground**, Carson National Forest, 17 miles south of Fort Burgwin on US-518 at 8,100' elevation: \$16–\$30/night, mix of RV and tent camping in spruce, fir, and aspen forest. Book online: [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

## 2017 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico Taos, New Mexico

**Field Trips and Workshops:** Directions and meet-up locations will be in your registration packet. Fees for Workshops A and B will be paid with your registration fee. Fees for Workshop C and Field Trip 13 will be paid on-site (cash or check only). *Do remember* to bring plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, snacks, appropriate shoes, hiking poles, lunch on Sunday (unless you plan to leave early), and hand lens (if you have one) for Field Trips 6 and 8. Sunday Field Trips 12–15 are especially good for those traveling towards Santa Fe to return home; 15 (Santa Barbara) will lead you onto the “High Road,” the scenic highway between Taos and Santa Fe.

### Thursday, September 14

- 1:30–6:30 pm Check-in/Registration  
2:00–5:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting  
4:00–5:30 pm **Field Trips for early arrivals**

#### 1. Pot Creek Archaeology

Located across the highway from Fort Burgwin, Pot Creek is the largest prehistoric pueblo north of Santa Fe. Seven hundred years ago it was home to several hundred ancestral Puebloan people. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Mike Adler, director, SMU-in-Taos.

#### 2. Historic Fort Burgwin

Learn the history of this 19th c. cantonment and how it evolved into the education campus it is today. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

### Friday, September 15

- 7:30 am–1:30 pm Check-in/Registration  
7:30 am–5:00 pm Silent Auction  
8:45–9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks—Jan Martenson, Taos chapter president, and co-organizer Mary Adams  
9:00–10:00 am Opening Keynote Speaker: Thor Hanson, author of *The Triumph of Seeds*  
10:00–10:20 am Break  
10:20–11:20 am **Seed Dispersal from Ants to Us: Plant Seed Evolution to Animals and People**  
Richard I. Ford, professor emeritus, University of Michigan  
11:20 am–12:15 pm **Cotton Domestication in the Prehistoric Southwest**  
Glenna Dean, New Mexico State Archaeologist (retired)  
12:15–1:15 pm Lunch in Fort Burgwin Dining Hall  
1:20–2:00 pm **Close to Home: Seeds of Success in Northern New Mexico** Lillis Urban, BLM, Taos Field Office  
2:00–2:30 pm **The Story of the Piñon Pine** John Ubelaker, professor emeritus, SMU  
2:30–2:45 pm **A Passion for Piñones** Kate Cisneros, community organizer and storyteller, Questa  
2:45–3:15 pm Break  
3:15–4:00 pm **More Native Seed Coming to New Mexico! What's New with the Southwest Seed Partnership** Melanie Gisler, Institute of Applied Ecology  
5:30–7:00 pm Reception at Millicent Rogers Museum, 1504 Millicent Rogers Road, El Prado  
7:00 pm Dinner on your own

### Saturday, September 16

- 8:00 am–Noon **Workshops A, B, C, D and Field Trips 3–8** (registration on a first-come, first-served basis)
- #### A. Creating Monoprints with Seeds
- Create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece using native seeds. (The grasses in the conference logo on p. 9 are an example of a monoprint.) Paper, inks, and seeds will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own seeds or flowers (fresh or dried, not too thick, fleshy, or woody). **Location:** Art Barn at Fort Burgwin. **Materials fee:** \$15. **Limit:** 8. **Leader:** Barrie Andrews, MFA.

## B. Bookmaking: Creating the "Flower Fold" Book Form

You will create an 8½" book form using two sheets of printed images (see photo, p. 8). We will provide images of seeds and flowers, but participants may bring their own images if desired (drawings, photocopies, or ink-jet printed on ordinary copier paper). In addition, participants who have them should bring Exacto knife, glue stick, metal ruler; however, tools will be provided for those who do not have them. (See a video demonstration of a similar folding form: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpg1BBzf8bQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpg1BBzf8bQ)) **Location:** Art Barn at Fort Burgwin. **Materials fee:** \$15. **Limit:** 8. **Leaders:** Carol Farmer and Jane Farmer, members of the Taos & Santa Fe Book Arts Groups.

## C. Sagebrush Distilling

Participate in steam-distillation of freshly harvested *Artemisia tridentata*, yielding both the essential oil and a hydrosol. During the distillation process, you'll learn about the plant's physical characteristics, signatures, herbal uses, local folklore, and history. Participants will take home small samples. (**Note:** Subject to cancellation if we do not have sufficient rains in August.) **Location:** Leader Wendy Whiteman's house. **Limit:** 10. **Materials fee:** \$8, to be paid on-site.

## D. Grass Identification

This is a beginner's workshop in identifying native grasses. Basic grass structure will be demonstrated. There will be an easy stroll around the Fort grounds for collection and to gain recognition and identification followed by classroom time. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Chick Keller.

## 3. Italianos Trail (off the Taos Ski Valley Road)

Cross a mountain stream seven times, hike an old mule trail, learn about plants of the Canadian Zone, and arrive at an aspen grove to review the role of aspen in Spruce-Fir forest. **Difficulty:** Moderate. **Distance:** 2–3 mi. **Elevation:** 8,700–9,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

## 4. Amole Canyon

Common wildflowers in meadows and a mixed conifer forest. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** 3 mi. **Elevation:** 8,200–8,600'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** David L. Witt.

## 5. Mi Casita: Visit and Talk "Aldo and Estella Leopold in New Mexico"

Drive to Tres Piedras, northwest of Taos, to visit Mi Casita, the house that Aldo and Estella Leopold built, and learn about their life in the Carson National Forest, Aldo's later conservation concepts, and current restoration activities. Mi Casita is now the home of the New Mexico Leopold Writing Program. A small native plant garden has been created with help from the Taos chapter NPSNM. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Richard Rubin.

## 6. Mosses on My Mind: Bryophytes for the Beginner

We'll drive to the top of the Taos Ski Valley to the Bavarian Lodge. If you've previously given mosses only a passing glance, you'll learn how to actually see and identify them, all the while engaging in informative conversations. Hand-outs provided. Bring a 10x hand lens if you have one. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Elevation:** 10,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leaders:** Kelly Allred and Russ Kleinman.

## 7. Hunt for Butterflies (and maybe tag Monarchs)

Location to be determined based on local conditions. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** TBD, but less than 2 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Steve Cary, the Butterfly Guy.

## 8. Seed Collection

Learn how to collect seeds from native plants and which plants are valuable resources for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Collection supplies will be provided. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** Less than 2 mi. **Location:** Carson Forest, specific location based on seed maturation TBD closer to date. **Limit:** 15. **Leaders:** Staff of the Applied Ecology Institute.

Noon–3:45 pm Silent Auction

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in Fort Burgwin Dining Hall

1:30–2:10 pm **The Target Plant Concept: A Southwest Restoration Perspective**

Owen Burney, NMSU/superintendent of the John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center, Mora

2:10–2:50 pm **The Seeds That Feed Us in Taos County** Miguel Santistevan, Taos farmer and educator;  
Daniel Martinez, manager, Taos Pueblo's Red Willow Farm

2:50–3:15 pm Break—Final bidding on silent auction

3:15–4:15 pm **Project Baseline, a Time Capsule of Seeds**

Julie Etterson, professor, Univ. of MN–Duluth and director of Project Baseline, a native seed bank

- 4:15–5:00 pm Member Presentations  
 5:00–5:30 pm Collect and pay for Silent Auction items  
 5:30–7:30 pm Cash Bar and Banquet at the Fort Burgwin Dining Hall  
 7:45 pm Wrap up; introduction of speaker, Dr. Larry Torres, professor, UNM-Taos:  
**Native Plants That Heal—Curanderismo in Northern New Mexico**

## Sunday, September 17

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8:30 am–Noon **Field Trips** (These may run past noon.)

### 9. Tree Walk Around and History of Fort Burgwin

Dominant and common plants of the Transition Zone will be examined. This zone extends from about 6,000–8,000' and is characterized by several dominant plants and some invasive species. Visit the NPSNM/Taos herbarium housed on the campus. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** Less than 2 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

### 10. Williams Lake

From the hiker's parking lot in the Taos Ski Valley we will walk through floristically rich areas to a sub-alpine lake set at the base of the majestic slope of Mt. Wheeler, the highest point in New Mexico. Our route includes a small marsh, deep forest, and below-treeline alpine ecosystems. **Difficulty:** Moderate (moderately strenuous for those not used to high elevation). **Distance:** 4 mi. (approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs.) **Elevation:** 10,000–11,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** David L. Witt.

### 11. Range Restoration (optional for the afternoon: **Into Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**—bring lunch)

Meet at Rio Grande Gorge Bridge west side Visitor Center. Bring high-clearance cars. Learn geologic history at bridge, then visit grass and sagebrush steppe ecological sites and 2007 fire with state and transition sites for rehabilitation at Wolf Springs Ranch. For those who can stay on for the afternoon we'll continue into the National Monument, looking at central volcanoes, piñon-juniper burns, and range restoration treatment of sagebrush steppe. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Limit:** Minimum 5, no maximum. **Leaders:** Tony Benson and Martha Brown.

### 12. UNM-Taos Art & Rio Grande del Norte National Monument Taos Overlook Trail

Stroll through the recently landscaped campus, enhanced with native plants and art installations. We'll then drive a few miles down the road to the Taos Overlook trail. The trail, mostly level, follows an old track through sage, piñon, and juniper, with views over the Rio Pueblo, eventually ending at an overlook view of the Taos Junction Bridge that crosses the Rio Grande, just below the junction of the two rivers. **Difficulty:** Easy, 3–4 mi. **Elevation:** about 6,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Paul Bryan Jones.

### 13. Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Preserve

Located 30 miles south of Taos (north of Ohkay Owingeh), off Hwy 68, 12-mile long Mesa Prieta contains the greatest number of petroglyphs (estimated to be close to 100,000) in New Mexico, ranging from Archaic through Puebloan through Historic (post-contact 1598). You will be enchanted by the number of animal flute players carved onto the basalt boulders. A \$30 donation to the Project is requested. Website: mesaprietapetroglyphs.org. **Difficulty:** Moderate (short distances, short but steep rocky trails). **Distance:** 1 mi. **Elevation:** 5,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Russell Martenson.

### 14. La Vista Verde Trail in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

A beautiful short hike that wanders through sage, junipers/piñons, open meadows, and basalt boulders, hugging the edge of a bench with a steep drop off to the Rio Grande. The hike ends at a bench with a wonderful view of the river to the north. You will see petroglyphs and possibly bighorn sheep. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** 2.5 mi. **Elevation:** 6,300–6,500'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Carina Short.

### 15. Santa Barbara Canyon

A 45-minute drive south (Highways 518, 75, 73) takes us to the Rio Santa Barbara and a trail south along its middle fork through meadows to a mixed conifer ecosystem that presents a wealth of flower species to examine. We will likely make our way along a wide trail for 2 miles or so before returning by the same route. **Difficulty:** Easy–moderate. **Distance:** 4 mi. **Elevation:** 8,800–9,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** TBA.

For additional information, please visit  
**www.npsnm.org**

**The Seed: Past, Present and Future  
2017 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee OR register individually and pay online at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)

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

*\*NOTE: Cell phone coverage is spotty. If you want access to Fort Burgwin Wi-Fi we must have your mobile phone number in advance. Your personal password for access (via multiple devices) will be given to you at check-in.*

**Included in the conference fee:** snacks during meeting breaks, Friday & Saturday lunches, Friday evening reception (appetizers & drinks). Saturday evening banquet with cash bar is additional \$25. *Space is limited for banquet seating, so register early!*

**Meals** are buffet style with meat and vegetarian choices.

List any special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception & Banquet Beverage Preference:**  beer  wine  non-alcoholic

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

Use letter/number listed in Field Trips/Workshops

**Thursday 9/14** (for early arrivals) 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday 9/16** 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday 9/17** 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Date	NPSNM Member	Non-Member
Before August 1	\$100	\$115
During August	\$115	\$130
After September 1—no lunches included	\$100	\$115
<b>Saturday banquet with cash bar</b>		
<i>Seating is limited, so purchase early</i>	\$25	\$25
Workshop A or B	\$15	\$15

Workshop D (\$8) and Field Trip 13 fee (\$30) will be paid on-site (cash or check only).

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send form(s) with check to Jan Martenson, 73 Vista Linda Road, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557.  
Make checks payable to NPSNM/Taos Chapter.**

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

For more information or to offer one of your invaluables,  
please contact Jan Martenson—

[taosnps@gmail.com](mailto:taosnps@gmail.com) or call 575/751-0511.

## Invitation to Members to Make Presentations at the Annual Conference on Saturday, September 16

In addition to our invited speakers, we have reserved time on Saturday afternoon just for members. The Planning Committee encourages you to submit a proposal for an illustrated talk you would like to present.

### Proposal Guidelines

- Talks should be planned to last no longer than 15 minutes.
- Your topic can be anything related to New Mexico native plants.
- Provide a title for your proposed presentation.
- Describe your proposed presentation in a paragraph.
- If you require anything other than standard A-V equipment, let us know.
- Include your
  - name
  - email address
  - telephone number
- Send your proposal by email to: [taosnps@gmail.com](mailto:taosnps@gmail.com)
- Your proposal should be received by July 15, 2017.

Only three presenters will be selected. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made its decision.



Mi Casita, the house that Aldo and Estella Leopold built northwest of Taos, is the destination of Saturday Field Trip 5, part of the 2017 Annual Conference.

Photo: Mary Adams

## NPSNM Chapter News: Las Cruces

### Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

The Las Cruces chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is very pleased to support the Friends of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park in their endeavor to purchase and install a greenhouse in which to raise native plants of our region.

Plans call for increasing the number of native plant species in the park gardens and along its trails to include plants that historically grew along this part of the Rio Grande but are currently missing from the park.

The greenhouse will also allow for educational programs on the benefits of using native plants in home gardening.

In addition, residents will be able to learn about xeriscaping as well as purchase extra plants not used in the restoration activities, through plant sales at the park.



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Photo: Shem Levenson



Friends' board members and New Mexico Native Plant Society members (from left to right): Vic Crane, president; Fred Yellon, board member; Meg Freyermuth, NPS member; John Freyermuth, NPS member; Carolyn Gressitt, NPS president; Jay Wilbur, board member; Kim Morgan, treasurer; Walt Whitford, board member; Marcia Corl, NPS member; Susan Ansara, secretary; Ruby Estrada, board member; Tom Packard, NPS vice president; Shem Levenson, vice president; Gary Gruer, MVBSP technician.

Photo: Shem Levenson

### Leasburg Dam State Park

The Las Cruces chapter also donated \$250 to the Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park for plants for the native gardens situated throughout the park. The Friends of Leasburg Dam are helping to build and maintain two native plant gardens to help the park with its mission of showcasing the natural beauty of the land and instructing its visitors about all that is offered at the park.

The park offers nature walks, bird walks, and guided hikes throughout the park on trails that are adorned with wildflowers and native plants found in the Chihuahuan desert environment. The park encompasses both the northern Chihuahuan Desert and the riparian area of the middle Rio Grande.



The Rio Grande River near Leasburg Dam. Photo: Carolyn Gressitt

## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on the following 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 Local Chapters; then

### Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at 505/286-8745 or [sedges \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:sedges[at]swcp.com). For field trips, contact Carol Conoboy, [carolconoboy \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:carolconoboy[at]gmail.com), 505/897-3530. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

**Apr 5** Meeting. The Yerba Mansa Project: Community-Driven Native Plant Restoration in the Bosque. Dara Saville.

**Apr 15** Field trip. Quebradas. Jim McGrath, leader. All day with several short stops. Meet 8 a.m. at [G].

**Apr 23** Field trip. Pine Flats to see Pasque flowers. Gary Runyan, leader. Meet 9 a.m. at [A].

**Apr 29** Field trip. Ojito Wilderness. Kerry Calhoun and Ara Winter, leaders. Meet 8 a.m. at [G]. Return by 4 p.m.

**May 3** Meeting. "Eriogonum and Penstemon: Two Genera with Eye-Catching Wildflowers and Numerous New Mexico Species." Bob Pennington, owner, Agua Fria Nursery.

**May 13** Field trip. White Sands Missile Range. David Anderson, leader. Meet 7 a.m. at [G] or 9 a.m. at NOP Gate. Pre-registration with Carol Conoboy required by April 1.

**May 20** Field trip. Los Alamos, Rio Grande Canyon. Chick Keller, leader. Red Dot Trail. Meet 7:30 a.m. at [D] and White Rock parking lot at 9 a.m. Return to parking lot about 2 p.m.

**Jun 3** Field trip. Cuba Badlands: Mesa Penistaja. Lenore Goodell, leader. Meet 8 a.m., NW corner Home Depot parking lot, Hwy 550 N of Bernalillo. Return to lot by 4 p.m.

**Jun 7** Meeting. Lizards of New Mexico. Patrick Alexander.

**Jun 10** Field trip. Wildflower Walk, Elena Gallegos Open Space. Larry Littlefield, leader. Meet 8:45 a.m. in the Pino Trailhead parking lot. 2-3 hours.

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.

**Jun 17** Pollinator Garden Tour: Rio Grande Nature Center, Oso Grande, and Unitarian Church. Tom Stewart and Virginia Burriss, leaders. Meet 8:30 a.m. at RGNC.

**Jun 24-25** Field trip. Jicarita Peak. Overnight in Taos or camp at Santa Barbara NFS campground. Dana Price, leader. Details TBA.

### El Paso

El Paso Chapter meetings are at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414, [jimhastings \[at\] elp.rr.com](mailto:jimhastings[at]elp.rr.com).

**Apr 13** Meeting. FloraFest Preview. John White, curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP.

**May 11** Meeting. Big Tooth April Research and NMSU's Recent Plant Release. Rolston St. Hilaire, professor and head of Plant and Environmental Sciences Dept., NMSU.

**Jun 8** Meeting. Program TBA.

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, with refreshments following the program. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre for carpooling. For more hike info, call Kevin Keith, 575/535-4064. Updates posted on [GilaNPS.org](http://GilaNPS.org).

**Apr 16** Hike. Ira Canyon, in the Big Burro Mountains.

**Apr 21** Meeting. Characteristics of Oklahoma's Induced Earthquakes. Corrie Neighbors, asst. professor of geology.

**Apr 21** Plants ordered during plant sale ready for pickup, 9-11 a.m. Parking lot next to Gough Park, Pope/12th St.

**May 19** Meeting. STEM, Citizen Science and the Safford BLM Rare Plant Program: How a Two-Year Community College Provides Critical Information and Support to BLM and USFWS. Joneen (Jony) Cockman, biologist, BLM.

**May 21** Hike. Skates Canyon, Pinos Altos Range.

**Jun 18** Hike. Railroad Canyon, Black Range.

### Las Cruces

Meetings and workshops are second Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Field trips are Sat-



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urdays; most last into the afternoon. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; nonmembers always welcome. Contacts: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Tom Packard, 575/202-3708.

**Apr 12** Meeting. Plants (and Birds!) of Peru: Iquitos, Machupicchu, and Lake Titicaca. Lance Smith.

**Apr 14** Field trip. Tortugas Mountain. Meet 8 a.m. at E end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner Telshor/University.

**May 10** Meeting. Ongoing Research at the Jornada (Part 2): From Seed Banks to Historical Quadrant Data. Kirsten Romig and Connie Maxwell.

**May 13** Field trip. Aguirre Springs or Mesilla Bosque State Park, depending on conditions. Meet 8 a.m., E end of K-Mart parking lot.

**Jun 14** Meeting. Topic TBD. Sara Fuentes Soriano, curator, NMSU Herbarium.

**Jun** No field trip scheduled, but check website for update.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert [at] yahoo.com, 575/443-4408; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak [at] netmdc.com, 575/443-3928. More info will be available by the beginning of each month.

**Apr 22** Annual Native Plant Sale in Alamogordo at Oregon and 10th Street, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. All help is appreciated.

**Apr 29** Earth Day at the Alamogordo Zoo. Otero Chapter booth, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Help will be needed and appreciated.

**May 20** Field trip. Bailey Canyon. Elva, leader. Meet 8 a.m. SW corner Hwy 82/North Florida. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, hiking shoes.

**Jun 17** Field trip. Bonito Lake area. with ranger. Meet 8:30 a.m. Tularosa Y (junction Hwys 54/70). Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, hiking shoes.

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso; across street from fire station). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom [at] thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

**April–Jun** Details TBA.

### Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Check NPSNM website or Facebook for updates. Contact TaosNPS [at] gmail.com or call Jan Martenson, 575/751-0511.

**Apr 16** Meeting. Natural Landscapes and Human Habitat: Connectivity, Restoration, and Care. Sylvia Rains Dennis,

native plant ecologist/educator.

**Apr 29** Field trip. Santa Fe nurseries. Meet 8:30 a.m. at San Francisco de Asis church in Ranchos, rear parking lot. Return to Taos mid-afternoon.

**May 17** Meeting. Save a Place for Wildlife. George Miller, NPSNM Albuquerque chapter president, naturalist, author.

**May 20** Field trip. Common Trees of Taos. John Ubelaker, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ft. Burgwin-SMU campus on Hwy. 518, by library. Difficulty: easy. Half-day trip.

**Jun 17** Field trip. Pedernal/Ghost Ranch. Meet 8 a.m. at San Francisco de Asis church in Ranchos, rear parking lot. Hike difficulty: moderate. Lunch at Ghost Ranch follows hike. Full-day trip.

**Jun 21** Meeting. Gathering Native Seeds in NM for Conservation and Restoration. Lillis Urban, botanist/ecologist, BLM/Taos Field Office.

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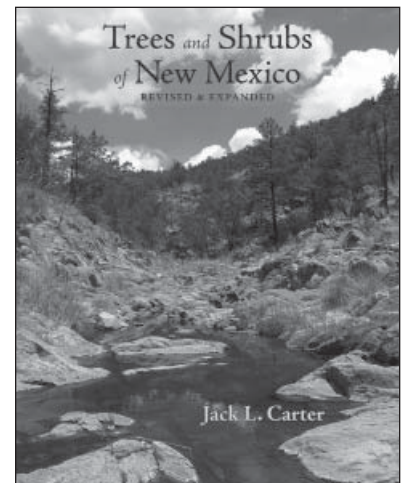
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**Conservation Corner** (continued from p. 6)

LLC has withdrawn its application to the Bureau of Land Management regarding a right-of-way (ROW) for the Pinon Pipeline project. The Farmington Field Office received a withdrawal letter on Friday, December 16, 2016. The proposed crude oil pipeline route would have followed routes crossing federal lands, the Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico lands, and private lands from Lybrook to a proposed rail terminal located near Thoreau. The pipeline would have the capacity to transport up to 50,000 barrels of crude oil per

day. The system would have included a gathering line ROW of approximately 49.5 miles and a mainline ROW approximately 98.5 miles in length.

NPSNM sent comments to BLM about this project in 2014, expressing our concern over potential adverse impact on two NM state Endangered plant species. The pipeline also had the potential to impact other sensitive resources, and the Farmington Field Office would be premature to consider it before their Resource Management Plan Amendment is completed. ❖

## Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico will make it possible for the Board to approve more funding for workshops throughout the state, additional basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and hopefully for the development and sup-

port of more early education programs from K-12 in New Mexico schools.

Use the form provided below, or contribute through PayPal on the website, [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org). Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.

~Jack & Martha Carter

### JACK & MARTHA CARTER CONSERVATION FUND DONATION FORM

*Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora!* Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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All contributions are tax-deductible as provided under the law.

Make your check payable to: **NPSNM—Carter Endowment Fund**

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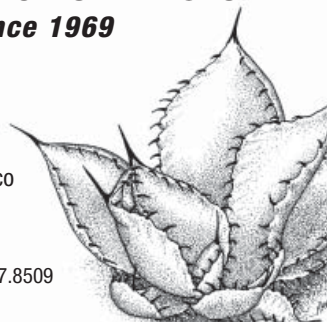
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**Membership in the NPSNM** is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair—check out <http://www.npsnm.org/posters/>



**New Mexico wildflower posters:**

Fall and Spring, 22"×24", \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)

**Cactus poster:** 18"×24", \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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## New Mexico Close-Up



*Left:* Blue grama sheds wind-borne pollen from pale green anthers, Mora County. *Below:* Dry, mature flower branches of blue grama, Santa Fe. See accompanying article on page 7.



Photos: Bob Sivinski