



NEWSLETTER

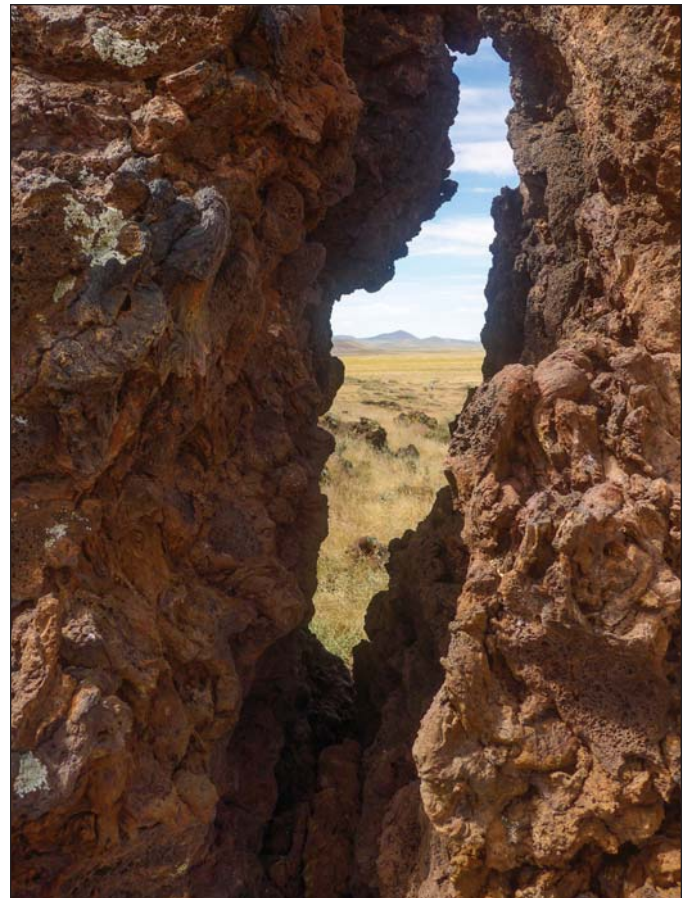
of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2017

VOL. XXXXII NO. 1

NPSNM takes its members to all kinds of fascinating places. Participants in the 2016 Annual Meeting field trip to the lava formation at Aden Crater were treated to some extraordinary views. Participants, from left: Jamie Ackerman, Judy Ackerman, Deb Farson, Kathy Barton, David Cristiani, Jan Danciger, Larry Rasmussen, Jan Martenson, Nyla Rasmussen, Pam Bryant, Joan Limmer, Ron Groves, Elroy Limmer, and Janet McLennan. Photos: Lisa Mandelkern



Inside This Issue

- 2 From the President ❖ One Thing Leads to Another ❖
- 3 Conservation Corner ❖ 4 Who's Who at NPSNM ❖
- 5 Las Cruces Chapter Donation to OM-DP National Monument ❖ 6 Chapter Activities & Events ❖
- 8 Thank You to Our Member Donors ❖ 9 Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund ❖
- 10 Habitat Landscape Workshop and Design Lab ❖ 11 Membership

From the President

by Tom Stewart

I began attending chapter meetings twenty years ago and bought a green T-shirt that proclaimed, "Native Plant Society: 1976–1996." As an organization we have turned forty years old now, and with nostalgia I put on that old shirt and got out the 1996 newsletters from my collection. It is gratifying that some of the same advertisers from back then are still supporting the newsletter today and serving a community that NPSNM has helped to educate.

In 1996, the El Paso chapter held the state meeting as a joint symposium with the Texas Native Plant Society. This was brilliant, in my opinion, and also reminds us that collaboration with kindred groups can be powerful. Let's do more of that!

A big change is that today we are able to compensate skilled helpers to put together the newsletter, file the tax forms, maintain the membership database, manage our website, and perform the other basic tasks of a modern non-profit organization. Their expertise helps us avoid wearing out our members' goodwill as they work to further our core purposes in direct ways.

So what are we doing? The yearly statewide conferences and the local chapter meetings—with their engaging, informative programs and field trips—are still the foun-



ation; those local efforts are indispensable. But we have also been supporting the protection of ancient trees in BLM badlands and protection of the Organ Mountains in a national monument. We have helped to train government land managers and the public in our plant-identification workshops; we support the regional herbaria each year; we submit comments on proposed state and federal management plans; we award modest grants to promising research, conservation, restoration, and botanical education projects; we speak to neighborhood associations; we write books; and as individuals we educate friends and neighbors as we plant natives or use them for dyes, art, decoration, or medicine.

Now we are forty, but we're not "over the hill." Instead, we are climbing the hill, getting better perspectives and more visibility. Let us thank our founders for their vision and their great gift to us. In 1976, landscaping with native plants was summed up in the word *yucca*. Nowadays we frequently spot apache plumes (*Fallugia paradoxa*), desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*), turpentine bushes (*Ericameria laricifolia*), and much more at churches, homes, malls, and gas stations; and more citizens care about our natural heritage. A transformation is evident, and we are at the heart of it. ❖

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

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information, contact nativeplantsnm@gmail.com.

One Thing Leads to Another

by Barbara Fix, NPSNM Membership Secretary

In a lovely tribute to Robert DeWitt and Vivian Ivey in the July 2015 NPSNM newsletter, Vanessa Quinones gifted us with the tale of how she came to have a tattoo on her leg based on DeWitt's drawing of hairy grama grass.

I thought that was super cool in many ways. And it got me to thinking. What about temporary tattoos of endangered plants? Since I'm technologically near illiterate, I recruited Melanie Gisler to help out. We started with the Holy Ghost ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*). Melanie got her husband, Steve, to do the artwork and she did the computer work to get it ordered.

Then, at a Santa Fe chapter meeting, I asked for a volunteer to design the holder. Janet Lea, an advertising maven of many years, stepped up. With her suggestion that we produce several tattoos, Steve Gisler then did drawings of

four more endangered plants: Sacramento prickly poppy (*Argemone pinnatisecta*), Pecos mariposa lily (*Calochortus gunnisonii* var. *perpulcher*), Pecos sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*), and Mogollon death camas (*Anticlea mogollonensis*). Daniela Roth, the New Mexico rare plant botanist, gave us the plant descriptions and other help. Janet Lea then recruited Rex Peteet, a nationally known graphic artist, to design the holders for the five tattoos and she coordinated all the production of them.

The result are classy, informative, and fun temporary tattoos that can also be used as window decals. Examples should soon be on the NPSNM website. NPSNM members can buy them for \$2.00 each plus postage. Contact me at 505/989-8654 or baafix@earthlink.net to order them.

Many thanks to our great volunteers—Melanie, Steve, Daniela, Janet, and Rex! ❖

Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Leoncita False Foxglove

On August 23, the Center for Biological Diversity filed a formal notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to act on petitions to protect more than 417 animals and plants under the Endangered Species Act. The notice includes species from across the United States, including Florida sandhill cranes, coastal flatwood crayfish, eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, and many others. Among them is the Leoncita false foxglove (*Agalinis calycina*), petitioned in 2012 by NPSNM.

A member of the Orobanchaceae family, *A. calycina* requires perennially moist alkaline/saline/calcareous soils in cienega (wet meadow) habitat around aridland springs and seeps. The species is currently known to exist in only two locations: (1) the Diamond Y Spring, which is owned by the Nature Conservancy of Texas; and (2) Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. Populations at both known locations have been reported to be



Leoncita false foxglove
Photo: Bob Sivinski

in the hundreds to thousands of individuals. Although both locations are protected, *A. calycina* could still be threatened by groundwater withdrawals, manipulation of water levels for waterfowl management, the invasive plant common reed (*Phragmites australis* var. *americanus*), and the lack of a recovery plan. The species is also known historically from two separate locations in Coahuila, Mexico. These two locations originally consisted of either a very large wetland complex or a large spring, but the wetlands have been drastically reduced from what they once were; in one case, there apparently is no obvious natural wetland still present.

USFWS has failed to make a required “12-month finding” for the 417 species, most of which were petitioned for between 2008 and 2010 by the CBD and others, meaning the findings are five to seven years late. Long delays in protection of species under the Endangered Species Act have been a persistent problem for decades: At least 42 species have gone extinct waiting for protection. A recent peer-reviewed study found that, on average, species have waited 12 years for protection during the Endangered Species Act’s 40-plus-year history.

“Delayed protection can be deadly for species already on the brink of extinction. The longer we wait, the more difficult—and expensive—it becomes to save them,” said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center. “Simply put, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs to be acting more quickly to decide which species will be protected so the recovery process can begin. The Endangered Species Act is incredibly successful at protecting and recovering animals and plants, but it only works if species are actually listed as threatened or endangered. These 417 species and hundreds of others are being dangerously neglected for no other reasons than bureaucratic inefficiency and lack of political will.”

Holy Ghost Ipomopsis

In August, NPSNM sent a letter to the Santa Fe National Forest, expressing our concern over the Forest Service’s disengagement from management of the Holy Ghost ipomopsis. The Forest has responded with a letter inviting us to meet with their staff about collaborating on management of the species.

Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus (Holy Ghost ipomopsis) is only known from one location, Holy Ghost Canyon in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of San Miguel County in north-central New Mexico. It was listed Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, primarily due to small population size,



Holy Ghost ipomopsis
Photo: Daniela Roth

impacts from development, and high levels of human activity in the immediate vicinity. *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus* occurs on partly weathered Terrero limestone and appears to prefer bare mineral soils in disturbed areas (road cuts) with relatively low densities of other perennial species. Therefore, it is thought to be an early successional species, requiring periodic fires or other disturbances to persist.

New Mexico’s Rare Plant Program Manager Daniela Roth provides the following update on the species’ current status: With the help of 10 NPSNM volunteers, Daniela Roth conducted surveys throughout Holy Ghost Canyon in 2015 to determine the post-fire distribution and abundance of the species. The purpose of the surveys was to get a cur-

Continued page 5

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

January–March 2017. Vol. 42 No. 1. 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 March 1, 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.

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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 (continued from p. 3)

rent estimate of population numbers and distribution, targeting previously documented locations, with an additional focus on areas burned in the 2013 Tres Lagunas Fire and areas disturbed by post-fire events, including flooding and associated erosion. A total of 6,052 individuals, consisting of 5,216 rosettes and 836 flowering plants, were documented in Holy Ghost Canyon in 2015. Approximately half of the reported plants were associated with 2011 plantings to augment the existing population. The majority of naturally occurring plants grow within 100 ft or less of the pavement, many growing within a few feet of the pavement edge and growing out of cracks in the pavement.

In general, *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus* was found in most of the areas where it was documented during 2008 surveys,

in 176 small groupings ranging from 1 to 100 plants. The majority of groups included fewer than 30 plants. Except for one group, no plants were found in burned areas or in disturbed areas along the floodplain and eroded banks of Holy Ghost Creek. In addition, no plants were found in areas disturbed by post-fire floods and erosion, which were in close proximity and of similar exposure to naturally occurring *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus* populations. This observation is putting into question the disturbance theory associated with the presumed cause of rarity of this species. In addition, several sites were documented from areas with relatively dense vegetation cover, including other perennial forbs, grasses, and woody shrub species. Plants were also observed growing in flat areas and shady areas. Hence suitable habitat for this species remains somewhat undefined. ❖



The Las Cruces Chapter made a recent donation of \$1,000 to the Friends of the Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument, to thank them for assisting with our 2016 Annual Meeting by providing excellent field-trip leaders, and also to thank them for all they do. They work hard to support the Monument and educate the public about enjoying our natural areas by pursuing healthy lifestyles that involve activities such as hiking and wildflower identification. At the same time they emphasize the importance of habitat

protection for the amazing creatures and plants that thrive in this sometimes harsh Chihuahuan Desert environment.

Pictured here, from left, are Marcia Corl, NPS member; John Freyermuth, LC Chapter Membership chair; Carolyn Gressitt, Chapter president; Ben Gabriel, Friends of OM-DP-NM Executive Director; Carol Reynolds, Friends board member; Earlene Brookshear, NPS member; and Joan Woodward, LC Chapter's NPSNM Board member. Photo by Lisa Mandelkern.

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; 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@swcp.com.

Jan 4 Meeting. Designing Shared Habitat. Judith Phillips, landscape designer and author.

Feb 1 Meeting. Flora of the Ladder Ranch. Matt Gautreaux, UNM biology graduate student.

Feb 10-11 Pollinator Habitat Design Workshop. UNM Continuing Education Conference Center. (See page 10.)

Feb 18 Pollinator Habitat Design Lab. (See page 10.)

Mar 1 Meeting. Adios Ojos y Ciénegas: Our Endangered Desert Wetlands. Bob Sivinski, Curatorial Associate of the UNM Herbarium and botanical consultant.

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).

Jan 12 Meeting. Pruning and Winter Maintenance of Native Plants. John White, curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP.

Feb 9 Meeting. Rare and Endangered Plants of the Castner Range and Franklin Mountains. Richard Worthington, Associate Professor Emeritus, Curator of UTEP Herbarium.

Mar 9 Meeting. Program TBA.

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.

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.

Jan 20 Meeting. Botany at Western New Mexico University: Greenhouse, Herbarium and Landscape Projects in the 21st Century. Kristi Dunn, Nathan Martin, William Norris, and Chala Werber.

Feb 17 Meeting. We Need a Bigger Boat. Kathy White-man, Department of Natural Sciences, WNMU.

Mar 17 Meeting. Gila Region Food Plants: Recipes, Tasting, and Farming for Global Sustainability. Richard Felger, Gabriel Feldman, and Chelsea Rittchen.

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 Saturdays; 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.

Jan 11 Meeting. Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument: A Photographic Journey in Southern New Mexico. Lisa Mandelkern. This is a repeat performance of her 2016 Annual Meeting keynote.



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Jan 14 Field trip. Leasburg Dam State Park. Meet 9 a.m. at Fairacres Post Office, 3800 W Picacho Ave.

Feb 8 Meeting. Ongoing Research at the Jornada: Insight into New Mexico's Grassland Ecosystems. Neeshia Macanowicz.

Feb 11 Field trip. North Sierra Vista Trail. Meet 9 a.m. at Bank of the Rio Grande, corner Telshor and University.

Mar 8 Meeting. Botany from a Boeing. Patrick Alexander.

Mar 11 Field trip. Peña Blanca: Spring at the south end of the Organ Mountains. Meet 9 a.m. at Bank of the Rio Grande, corner Telshor and University.

Otero (Alamogordo)

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

Jan 21 Cooking demonstration: Cactus Cuisine. Jim Hastings (The Gringo Gourmet). 2:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 14th Street and Oregon, Alamogordo.

Feb 11 Presentation. Botany from a Boeing. Patrick Alexander. 11:00 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1010 16th Street, Alamogordo.

Mar 18 Field trip. Indian Wells Trail. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the uppermost parking lot of the NM Museum of Space History. Bring water and snacks, wear 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@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

Jan 18 Meeting. The Pueblo Food Experience. Porter Swentzell, Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies at the Institute of American Indian Studies and member of Santa Clara Pueblo.



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Taos

The Taos Chapter has entered its winter dormant state. We will awaken in the spring with our first meeting in March, and field trips/hikes will commence in April. Watch for our informative articles in second Thursday Taos News Home & Garden Section. For updates, please check the NPSNM website, our Facebook page (search for Native plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter). Contact: TaosNPS@gmail.com or Jan Martenson 575/751-0511. Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd.

Mar 15 Meeting. Hummingbirds of North Central New Mexico and Their Favorite Native Plants. John Ubelaker, professor emeritus, SMU-in-Taos/Fort Burgwin.

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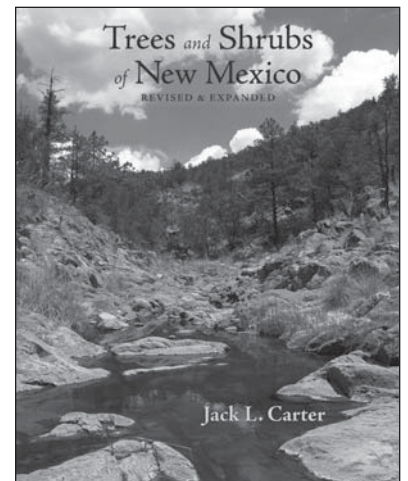
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NPSNM Would Like to Thank . . .

. . . all members who have made monetary contributions above their regular dues. This list, which covers December 3, 2015, through December 4, 2016, includes those who sent in extra contributions with their memberships. It doesn't in-

clude other contributions people make, such as those sent directly to the treasurer or the contributions of cooperation and energy from the wonderful members of this volunteer organization.

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NPSNM Would Also Like to Thank . . .

. . . all who have contributed to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund since November 25, 2015. This fund was created to assist the NPSNM in maintaining a balanced budget while continuing to increase the funds available for research and educational grants to individuals and orga-

nizations. It is a long-term endowment fund that has the potential to provide considerably more funds in the future than are currently available. Every dollar is important and we deeply appreciate your participation.

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Habitat Landscape Workshop and Design Lab

February 10–11 and February 18, 2017

The Albuquerque Chapter will present a two-day Habitat Landscape Workshop and a one-day Design Lab to show participants how to create pollinator-friendly habitats that are beautifully designed and filled with diverse plants that sustain native wildlife displaced by development.

Speakers at the two-day workshop include George Miller, Judith Phillips, Olivia Carill, Steve Cary, and Virginia Burris.

Workshop speakers will discuss habitat requirements; attracting butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; and basic design criteria. Plenty of garden photos and videos will help participants visualize their future landscape.

The Saturday February 11 workshop will include a box lunch and will wrap up with a speaker panel question-and-answer session, then slides and videos of local native plant gardens. There are separate fees for the two-day workshop and the design lab.



Above, *Erigeron flagellaris*; below, *Cymopterus lemmonii*.

Photos: George Miller



TWO-DAY HABITAT LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

\$55.00 per person

Friday, February 10 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 11 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

The Habitat Landscape Design Lab will be held the following Saturday, 2/18, for those wanting help with their home habitat landscape design from area design professionals. The Habitat Landscape Workshop is a prerequisite for the Design Lab.

HABITAT LANDSCAPE DESIGN LAB

\$40.00 per person

Saturday, February 18 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Registration details will be available soon on npsnm.org!

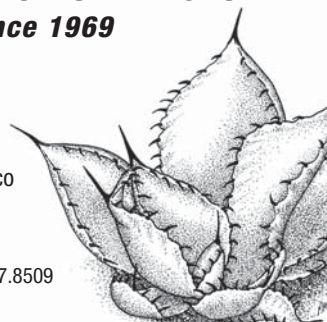
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Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve 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 (contact information listed on page 4).



New Mexico wildflower posters:

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

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

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- Gila (Silver City) Taos
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- I am interested in forming a new chapter in:*

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- Sponsor 125
- Patron 250
- Life Member 1,000
- Limited Income, Teachers,
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Additional Contribution: \$ _____

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2016 Annual Meeting participants approach the Organ Mountains on the Bar/Soledad Canyon field trip.

Photo: Tom Stewart