



# Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## Minutes

Summer Board Meeting  
 Zuni Room of the Sagebrush Conference Center,  
 Taos, New Mexico  
 3:00 PM MDT, July 25, 2024

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order by Don and Wendy Graves, co-presidents, at 3:05pm. Quorum was determined to be present (in-person or Zoom), with proxies as noted below. Welcome to all board members, guests and proxies.

### BOARD MEMBERS:

#### **Chapter Representatives:**

Albuquerque: Dana Loy (Zoom)  
 El Paso: Kevin Floyd  
 Gila: Betty Spence  
 Las Cruces: Joan Woodward  
 Otero: Laurel Berry  
 Santa Fe: Barbara Fix, proxy for Sylvan Kaufman  
 Taos: Jan Martenson

#### **Executive Officers:**

Co-Presidents: Don & Wendy Graves  
 Vice President: Jonathan Tanis  
 Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse  
 Documentarian: Kathleen Hall  
 Treasurer: Tom Stewart

**Guests:** Sylvan Kaufman, Conservation Chair, Margaret Ménache, Newsletter Editor, Candace Stoughton, Albuquerque Chapter, Cate Erbaugh, Otero Chapter.

## II. Review and Certification of Board Votes by email, including acceptance of minutes of Winter Board Meeting:

A. Minutes of our winter board meeting, January 13,2024 have been reviewed, completed, signed and archived February 3, 2024.

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**B. January 15, 2024**--First motion after the meeting – Sylvan Kaufman made motion to give one-year gift membership to all teachers nominated and to all grant recipients, recorded at the end of the winter board meeting minutes. This was seconded by Jonathan and 12 members voted yes via email.

**C. February 4, 2024**-- motion by Tom Stewart via email in support of the DarkSky letter Sylvan wrote: “I move that the board approve the letter to be sent to DarkSky International in support of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument application for recognition.” This motion was seconded by Kathleen and 10 voting members agreed to pass the motion.

**D. June 26, 2024**—via email Joan Woodward motioned for the board to accept the letter written by Sylvan Kaufman on behalf of the NPSNM regarding the BLM Management of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. Dana Loy seconded the motion which carried with 9 voting members.

**E. July 12, 2024**-- Tom Stewart motioned NPSNM join other listed organizations by signing the letter circulated by Sylvan Kaufman in support of the request for appropriate oversight regarding the administration of Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program as it applies to our region of Hopi and Navajo lands with coal mines. The motion was seconded by Jan Martenson, and the motion passed with 9 voting members.

**III. Finance: Treasurer’s Report, Tom Stewart, Treasurer.** Tom distributed copies of the Treasurer’s half-year summary report.

**A. The Budget vs Actual for 2024 ---**

1. Total operating revenue to date for 2024 is \$24,396. Dues are the primary income, currently at \$19, 097, so we are consistent this July compared to previous years. We get a boost from lifetime memberships each year — at least two in 2024 and this year a boost with unrestricted donations-\$4788.

2. Tom Stewart reviewed highlights of operating expenses total year to date \$19,775: Chapter rebates, (chapter share of dues at 25% of membership fees \$4846), Contractor such as newsletter, website (\$6,351), Newsletter (\$5291), PayPal (\$628), Insurance (\$962), printing, and mailing including the new brochures (\$1361). The digitizing project is costing less than anticipated.

3. Net operating revenue-expenditures – Good condition so far this year.

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**B. Nusenda and Edward Jones Accounts reviewed by Tom:**

		Jan 2024	July 2024
Nusenda	Checking	\$36,824.91	<b>\$48,108</b>
	Savings (Carter Fund) <sup>1</sup>	\$12,265.90	<b>\$2,280</b>
Edward Jones	Restricted (Carter Fund, referred to as Corp 1)	\$138,577.22	<b>\$150,013</b>
	Unrestricted (available for <u>special projects</u> , referred to as Corp 2)	\$56,985.53	<b>\$59,296</b>

<sup>1</sup>Money received from the letter request for contributions sent out late in year.

From the Carter Fund: grants total \$11,680, Herbaria \$2400/\$3000 have been cashed, and the Conservation Hero \$500.

Checking Account is higher than usual in part because of increased donations.

Tom initiated the following discussions:

1. A newsletter meeting was held, and he was tasked with determining the cost per each newsletter: \$3.43 per 20 pages, closer \$3.00 for 16 pages. Newsletter Editor is paid approximately 10-11% of cost or \$0.30 per Newsletter. The postage is 16% of cost. The newsletter editor cost/newsletter is less than the cost of postage per newsletter.
2. Suggested considering the previously discussed idea of offering members the option of automatic annual dues renewal when people join or renew with Paypal. At the January board meeting this failed to attract volunteers among the board members to participate in a committee to consider the idea.
3. Some discussion regarding the use of increasing funds (above yearly expenses) included: returning more to chapters for their own granting or increasing money to money market funds, more to grants as per their requested amounts, and Margaret recommended keeping a year of budget in reserve as fiscally responsible for a non-profit society. Currently the chapter rebates are 25%. This number is set in the Policies document and could easily be change by board vote.

- IV. Membership Report** – prepared by Lindsey Kirchhevel alias Lindsey Luna, which was presented by Co-President Don Graves. A new record number of memberships = 926 total.

Some discussion about a “membership card”. Tom Stewart clarified the Albuquerque chapter does give a card which must be presented to get the discount offered to the Albuquerque society members at the Plants of the Southwest.

- V. Conservation Report** as prepared by Sylvan Kaufman, Conservation Chair.

Activities from January to July:

February 5 – Wrote a letter of support for the Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument application to DarkSky International to become a Dark Skies Sanctuary.

April 20 – Responded to Andrew Tree’s discovery of stinknet (*Oncosiphon pilulifer*) in Hidalgo County. This was the first record of this highly invasive plant’s discovery in NM.

July 5 – Reviewed and wrote comments on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plans for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

July 14 – Signed on to letter written by Appalachian Voices requesting that the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program have an administrative change back to coordination and oversight by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) so that NEPA and ESA are applied to decision-making processes to protect the local environment and communities. This program includes the Hopi and Navajo Nations in New Mexico.

Upcoming Issues:

1. Mimbres Peaks National Monument letter of support – Gila chapter is drafting a letter of support. Las Cruces is also working on writing a letter and will share that when prepared.  
 2. Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356> Comments due Sept. 20 but I would like to submit them before Sept. 9. This does affect many forests throughout NM and I think it would be good to comment on.

3. Betty Spence asked for clarification on current members of conservation committee: representation for most chapters. Sylvan sends out to committee members any issues that arise and asks for their comments.

4. Candace Stoughton (Albuquerque member) questioned our interactions with the Department of Transportation and their treatment of roadways including, but especially the milkweeds.

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Does NPSNM have any relationship with DOT?

Wendy Graves described a letter the Gila chapter had written 2 years ago to DOT and a response had been obtained but it is a slow process as it requires cooperation among many different agencies. They are hoping to take the solution statewide. Don Graves provided a contact person: Steve Gisler, who will present to the Gila chapter and would probably be interested in talking to other chapters. Jonathan is currently working on the pollinator plan, a statewide project with the DOT. A suggestion was made to work with DOT as a citizen scientist involvement activity. Tom Stewart described the difficulties he has had working with the DOT (conference call with Donna Stevens) since district offices are independent. Don Graves suggested we work on this, including a newsletter article.

5. Santa Fe-Sylvan Kaufman described an increased interest in Santa Fe regarding keystone native plants to support the native insects. Somewhat limited information for New Mexico from this perspective. Working on gathering this information.

6. Wendy Graves brought up the motion as outlined in the agenda:

the **President moves** that we insert the statement,

“The Board authorizes letters written in support of National Native Plant Month and New Mexico Native Plant Day,” at the end of the paragraph in the Board Policies document that begins with the words, “The Board may also authorize the chairman of the Conservation Committee, his or her designee, or any other member of the Society to present orally or in writing factual information...”.

**Discussion:** Wendy clarified this insertion is for the conservation committee and is specifically about Native Plant Day. Reminder from Margaret: permission from society should always be obtained before speaking for the Native Plant Society.

**This motion was seconded by Joan, discussion, and 12 members voting in favor to pass the motion.**

## VI. Margaret Ménache, Newsletter Editor

- A. Please, chapter representatives, please, take the information back to your chapters and coordinate what type of information should be sent to the newsletter, especially if the chapter has an activities coordinator. Events happening in a chapter should be documented in the newsletter. Recently several obituaries in newsletter did document life and history of individuals, a priority of the newsletter.
- B. Send in regular events and special events. “What are we doing?” How are we spending our money? How are we fulfilling our mission? The newsletter is a place to record the history of Native Plant Society. The newsletter is a paper document that records, not a digital snapshot that is viewed briefly. Joan Woodward requested a review for submission dates: The 25<sup>th</sup> of the month 2 months prior to the publication.

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- C. Margaret had compared our newsletter to other state newsletters, Arizona, Colorado, Texas. As previously mentioned, ours costs about \$3.43 for each 20-page newsletter. Other newsletters have some ideas we may want to incorporate including more scientific, academic articles, more focused topics such as using native plants in gardens. Margaret is considering the regular columns she could include like the Conservation Committee report and the series Kathleen is working on “Who is on Board?” This could help engage readers to become interested in board and board activities.

Discussion about the newsletter as is and the potential changes. Kathleen Hall noted that the cost of newsletter covers not only a printed copy, it is also digitized and available online.

## VII. Old Business

- A. Digitizing of all newsletters is complete and they are now on a “thumbdrive”, possessed by Margaret Menache. Kathleen Hall has completed the digitization process.

Wendy provided information (and a handout was made available) regarding Searching versus Indexing. She has created a search box on the newsletter page of website. She cautions this is a first-step but board could entertain more thought about “search tools”, and “text-searching” as time allows. Formal naming was not done for some previous newsletters.

If indexing is chosen, each future newsletter must also be indexed. This represents an on-going expense.

Retrieving information from the past is still desirable. “Key words” may be more helpful.

### B. Motion from Otero:

1. **Otero chapter made a motion** to create a committee, that the NPSNM officers will oversee, to restructure the Facebook page, with duties and goals including: defining and prioritizing desired content, recruiting member volunteers for administration and posting, etc, and that at the winter board meeting will disband after reporting progress and recommendations.

#### **Motion Seconded by Kevin Floyd.**

**Discussion:** Tom gave some history regarding the original set up of Facebook page, regarding the limitations of posting by all versus posting by administrators who could control content. Kevin: Pages are one-way communication. A Group set-up would allow any individual to post, interesting items on hikes, for example. Facebook could be used to just post information about events. Jonathan recommends using Instagram instead of or in addition to Facebook. President pointed out that we

already have an Instagram page that is the first item on the “new business” section of the agenda.

**Friendly amendments** to above: Don Graves suggests could we change some parts? Need a champion to have a committee.

2. **Wendy Graves made a motion** to make a friendly amendment to **change the above motion #1 from “officers” to “board members” and Facebook page” to “Facebook and Instagram pages”** to the above.

**Wendy moves** to create a committee, that the NPSNM board members will oversee, to restructure the Facebook and Instagram pages, with duties and goals including: defining and prioritizing desired content, recruiting member volunteers for administration and posting, etc, and that at the winter board meeting will disband after reporting progress and recommendations.

**Tom Stewart seconded that motion**

**Discussion:** Clarification this motion is only to amend the #1 motion.

**12 voted yes to make change to motion #1 above**

3. Kevin Floyd initiated the conversation about how to get the committee organized. He does feel we need a more organized social presence. The committee to define and discuss Facebook and Instagram pages should be to identify the content of NPSNM social presence. The original committee would define how the social media would operate and after original set up a committee can operate similar to the conservation committee and be made up of individuals not on the board. Further discussion of the role of this original committee resulted in the following motion by Jan Martenson.

**Another friendly amendment:** Jan Martenson moves to remove “the recruiting member volunteers for administration and posting”.

**Kevin Floyd seconded that motion**

**12 voted yes to make the change to motion #1 above**

4. **Final motion made by Jan Martenson:** I move we create a committee, that the NPSNM board members will oversee, to restructure the Facebook and Instagram pages, with duties and goals including defining and prioritizing desired content, and at the winter board meeting will disband after reporting progress and recommendations.

**Discussion:** about timing to disband, felt a deadline for original committee is a good.

**This motion was seconded by Kevin Floyd and 10 members voted to pass this motion; two members abstained. Motion carried.**

## VIII. Chapter highlights:

### A. Santa Fe Chapter-presented by Barbara Fix

- 5 speakers on topics ranging from endemic plants, wildfire, herbaria, the Railyard brochure project and botanical art, to stream restoration with beaver analogues.

- 2 field trips – Cerrillos Hills with Bob Sivinski and Nature Journaling with Lynn Grimes and Monica O’Keefe
- 2 outreach events - Earth Day at the Railyard and the Master Gardener Garden Fair
- More than 70 volunteer hours worked on restoration and other projects at LCWP and the Acequia Trail and Cactus Garden
- A very rough estimate of 40 attendees/meeting, 20 attendees/field trip
- About 10 active volunteers
- Native Plant Day Proclamation (Aug. 17) requested by Carol Johnson and granted
- Roger Peterson’s herbarium is now owned and housed by the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and specimens are being uploaded to SEINET

**B. Taos Chapter-presented by Jan Martenson**

- Conference: almost 160 paid registrants, plus others who were all comped the registration fee (e.g., student poster presenters, hike leaders, speakers)
  - Students are welcome for free and Taoseños and others are invited to Saturday lectures for a suggested donation of \$20
  - A Taos News columnist has written an article to be published July 18th
  - Banquet capped at 125 capacity – sold out by end of June
- Greenhouse in Rio Fernando Park: demo garden coming along, a member built a storage shed on site as well as a bridge over acequia approaching the greenhouse. So successful we’re planning a germination room, applied for a small grant from Taos Community Foundation but didn’t get it. Thinking of applying to Carter Fund NPSNM. Will start with a pre-fab unit, insulated, electric and plumbing.
- Plant Sales: we held a sale Memorial weekend at the greenhouse and locals are invited to stop by weekly on Wednesday mornings for plants. Plant sales total over \$2300 YTD
- “Native Gardening in Northern New Mexico” booklet has been republished through Amazon, thanks to the efforts of Terry Baumgardner as well as Mary Adams and several chapter members. Could not have done it without a huge contribution of photographs by George Miller.
  - Cost is \$25 both direct from chapter and thru Amazon, Kindle version \$15; \$20 wholesale for those who order multiple copies for resale (e.g., Santa Fe Master gardeners.)
- Hikes: monthly organized hikes have had 5 - 20 attendees.
- Monthly meetings – 5 since March – attendance ranged from 25 to over 50
- Gratitude expressed from Rachel Jankowitz for her gifts from the board

Submitted by Jan Martenson and Mary Adams

**C. Albuquerque chapter-presented by Dana Loy via Zoom**

- Collaboration between NPS Albuquerque Chapter, Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico, and Xerces Society
- Participation in bosque protection project with other organizations
- Increase in membership meeting attendance

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- Outreach to attract new members
- Working with city parks to care for Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat
- Rescued and replanted native cacti at Petroglyphs National Monument
- Building community through chapter potluck and members' yard tours

#### **D. El Paso Chapter-presented by Kevin Floyd**

- The combined meetings with the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club continue to be well attended
- Several club members participated in cactus rescues at several locations slated for development.
- Otherwise we continue to struggle to find more members willing to take any sort of leadership role, so we are basically treading water. At least we aren't sinking too much!

#### **E.Gila Chapter -presented by Betty Spence**

- Evening programs January through April
  - January 19, "If You Plant It, They Will Come: Meet the Bees in Your Neighborhood and Their Favorite Native Plants" – presentation via Zoom by PhD student Oliver Neria
  - February 16, "The History of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden" – live presentation by Elroy Limmer and Betsy Kaido
  - March 15, "Phylogenetics and Population Genomics in the Milkwort genus *Hebecarpa* (Polygalaceae)"- presentation live and online by PhD student Christopher Muñoz
  - April 19, "Insect Galls of the Southwest" – presentation live and online by Quin Baine, Research Fellow at the Museum of Southwestern Biology-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Field Trip April 9: "Hidalgo County Chihuahuan Desert Wildflowers" led by Andrew Tree
- Tables at Gila Earth Day (April 20) and Give Grandly (May 4)
- Participation in Gila Centennial Celebration
  - Organized three field trips into the Gila Wilderness
  - Talk, "Native Plants, Pollinators: A Two-Way Street" by Don Graves and Elroy Limmer, June 1
  - Booth in Gough Park June 1
- Field Trip July 19 – "Know Your Trees" – led by Don Graves
- Progress on implementing the Master Plan for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, including:
  - Revised butterfly and new plantings in the Butterfly Garden
  - Landscape Architect Ashley Pedersen hired to work up a detailed plan for a Children's Pollinator Garden with interactive features
  - Continued work on Habitat Thicket and signage, draft Front Entrance design

- Deergrass rescue from housing construction site
- Collaboration with Bat Conservation International on bat/agave project
- New features on the gilansps.org website and switched to SouthWest CyberPort – Wendy Graves
- GNPS sent four members to the NPSNM Native Bee Workshop in Santa Fe, July 15-19
- Upcoming: Native plant sale across from Gough Park on August 17<sup>th</sup>; plants will be sold by five native plant growers

#### **F. Las Cruces Chapter-presented by Joan Woodward**

#### **The next conference will be October 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in LAS Cruces.**

- Continued conservation work:
  - Prepared BLM Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Resource Management Plan Comments
  - Prepared Mimbres Peaks National Monument Proposal support and comments
  - Maintained the Dripping Springs native plant garden through monthly work sessions
  - Continued work to protect Spring Canyon from destruction by cattle; met with lessee and State Land Office to propose mutually beneficial solutions for livestock and habitat for plants and animal species
- Continued educational monthly programs and hikes
- Increased NMSU student grant funding—achieved goal and will give \$1500 to students in 2024. Jackie Meineska Enchanted Gardens.
- Supported membership through hospitality, including Aguirre Springs potluck, Las Cruces garden party, and developing new logo
- Continued planning for 2025 conference
- Supported NMSU Herbarium by participating on faculty search committee and pursuing alternative funding ideas
- New Chapter Representative: please welcome Jackeye Meinecke to the state board beginning August, 2024
- Donor approached herbarium then the NPSNM to become fiscal agent

#### **G.Otero Chapter-presented by Laurel Berry**

See Linked Tree-for updates

- -Name of Native Plant Society of New Mexico-Otero Chapter is officially **OTERO NPS**
- -Currently 67 members, with 224 FaceBook subscribers, 102 to email account
- -using Goggle mail for e-mail management
- Awarded \$1000 to NMSU Herbaria-Sara Fuentes-Soriano, PHD and Zachary Rogers M.S.

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- -Awarded \$1000 to harvester ant native seed collection at NMSU
- -plant Sale, Revenue \$1500-\$2000
- -8 total events since January with combined attendance of 83.
- For Earth Day event activities included seed bomb making, shadow art via cyanotype paper, and coloring pages.
- County Fair events in fall plan to purchase and sell plants
- -Concerned about Otero chapter events not printing in Newsletter, only 28% of our words were published.
- Insurance added to have for fair.

## IX. New Business

### A. At winter board meeting we were all charged with finding replacements for Recording Secretary and for President.

Betty Spence will run for the recording secretary position

Who will ask other people to consider running for a position on the board?

Wendy Graves suggests setting up a nominating committee.

Margaret Menache suggests an ad hoc committee .

Sylvan Kaufman volunteered to be on nominating committee, Margaret Menache, Co-Presidents will also be on this nominating committee.

- B. President proposed the rest of agenda is done over ZOOM in September or October to finish the other items listed in New Business. Don Graves requested information about preferred timing for Zoom meeting. We decided to use an online scheduling tool.

**Jan Martenson made the Motion to adjourn, second by Kevin Floyd. 11 agreed to adjourn, 1 opposed. Adjourned 5 :15.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kruse

Don & Wendy Graves

Recording Secretary  
Native Plant Society New Mexico

Co-Presidents  
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on August 26, 2024 by a vote of the board of directors, with 6/11 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.

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