

Santa Fe Chapter Annual Report 2023

Board Members

President and Treasurer: Thomas Antonio

Vice President: Sylvan Kaufman

Membership: Joan West

Conservation Committee Representative: Renee Galeano Popp

Conservation Projects: Barbara Fix

Programs: Thomas Antonio, Sylvan Kaufman, Barbara Fix, Donna Eagles, Luz Stefani

1. Evening Programs

Programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September – May at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe. An average of 40 people attend meetings.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023 “The New Mexico Flora during the Great Cool-Earth to Warm-Earth Transition in the Late Paleozoic” with Bill DiMichele, National Museum of Natural History

The late Paleozoic, Pennsylvanian and Permian periods, records a change from a glacial, cool Earth to an ice-free warm Earth about 300 million years ago. In the far western parts of the supercontinent of Pangea, New Mexico Pennsylvanian landscapes were less swampy, more seasonally dry, than those supporting the classic “Coal Age” floras of the Eastern US and Europe. They included a rich mixture of now-extinct plants typical of wet soils and others tolerant of drought. Moving into the Permian the global icehouse began to wane and a diverse array of new kinds of plants, largely drought-tolerant seed plants, began to appear. Many of these younger, Permian-age plants were ancestors to lineages still extant today, such as conifers, cycads, and possibly even flowering plants. Prior to the ice age we are presently in, this late Paleozoic time was the last major ice age in Earth history, and thus holds some lessons for today.

Bill DiMichele, Ph.D., is a research geologist and curator of paleobotany at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in the Department of Paleobiology. He has done extensive work at the Kinney Brick Quarry near Albuquerque and at other sites in the southwest.

March 14, 2023 "A Brief Natural History of Pines". Renee Galeano-Popp
Renee will talk about “Project Pine Cone,” the natural history of pines, and the sad story of white pine blister rust. She guarantees everyone will learn something they didn’t know before about pines.

Renee did her undergraduate and graduate work in Botany and Forest Ecology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Her M.S. thesis was titled “Ordination and Classification of Plant Communities on the North Kaibab Ranger District.” She worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 20 years including 3 years as Regional Botanist in Albuquerque and 8 years as Assistant Staff Officer for Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants on the Lincoln NF. She also

spent 10 years working in private consulting in Colorado before returning to New Mexico two years ago.

April 11, 2023 “Restoration of Fire-Adapted Forests of the Southwest” with Mateo Pomilia, Southwest Forest Stewards Guild.

Mateo brings diverse international experience in biodiversity conservation, agroecology, and intercultural education throughout South and Central America, southern Africa, and the US. Mateo’s interests include biocultural approaches to conservation, ecological restoration, and large mammal research and monitoring. Mateo is a Southwest Program Manager for the Forest Steward Guild, supporting their efforts to facilitate collaborative forest management in northern New Mexico for resilience, biodiversity conservation and the benefit of local communities. Mateo holds a MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds (UK) and a BA in Romance Languages from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Mateo is an avid outdoorsman and songwriter-singer.

May 9, 2023 John Busemeyer and Andrew Alderete, NM DOT

Learn how the NM Department of Transportation Natural Resources Section is developing programs for roadside pollinator habitat enhancement, improved revegetation practices, noxious weed management, and statewide rare plant surveys within the DOT right of way.

Sept. 12, 2023 “Tribal Forestry and Fire Partnerships”, John Waconda, Indigenous Peoples Program Director at The Nature Conservancy.

Oct. 10, 2023 “New invasive plants in the Southwest and science updates on common invaders” by Sylvan Kaufman. The third edition of “Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species” by Sylvan and her father Wallace Kaufman has been published by Stackpole Books! Come learn about new research on the problem plants in New Mexico and what to be on the lookout for. Dr. Sylvan Kaufman is an ecologist who has specialized in restoration and impacts of invasive plants on native plant communities.

November 14, 2023 “Forecasting piñon masting in New Mexico” by Andreas Wion. Andreas will be talking about his local research on masting in the piñon pine, and about his program of “ecological forecasting” of mast years in New Mexico. Dr. Andreas Wion is a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at the New Mexico Landscapes Field Station - based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. Field Trips

Most field trips had a limit of 20 people and were fully subscribed.

May 27 Arroyo Hondo Field Trip led by Bob Sivinski with a focus on cacti

June 11 Penstemon Tour at PEEC. Penstemon expert Larry Deaven led a tour of the Penstemons in the garden at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (<https://peecnature.org/>).

July 30, 2023 Base of the Santa Fe ski basin. Miriam Vaughn and Sylvan Kaufman led the trip.

September 16. Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve Plant tour with Bob Sivinski and Sylvan Kaufman. The Wetland Preserve is owned and managed by Las Golondrinas. The preserve has a spring fed wetland and surrounding uplands. Bob is a botanist and has done extensive surveys of the flora at LCWP over time. Sylvan is an ecologist who volunteers at the wetland as a naturalist collecting data on plants and plant phenology for Nature's Notebook and iNaturalist. This is an easy walk over about 2 miles.

3. Projects

April 1, Help rescue the Acequia Trail cactus garden from gophers! Led by Barbara Fix.

Multiple days: 9am – noon.

Join Barbara Fix (NPS) and Yvonne Hickerson from the Institute for Applied Ecology, in removing invasive plants at Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve.

Volunteer hours totaled about 40 hours at LCWP and 40 hours for the Acequia Trail

4. Social Events

Summer Social August 25th NPS Members Social Event at Plants of the Southwest.

Winter Social Dec. 10 at the home of Peggy Rudberg and Jay Bush

5. Outreach Events

April 22, 2023 Santa Fe County Earth Day at the Fairgrounds

August 27, 9am – 12pm Environmental and Sustainable Living Fair First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe

6. Financial Report

Thomas Antonio has submitted the 2023 Financial Report.

\$1000 donation to Santa Fe Botanical Garden for the David Salman Memorial Garden

This annual report is respectfully submitted by Sylvan Kaufman, Vice-President, Santa Fe chapter of the Native Plant Society of NM.