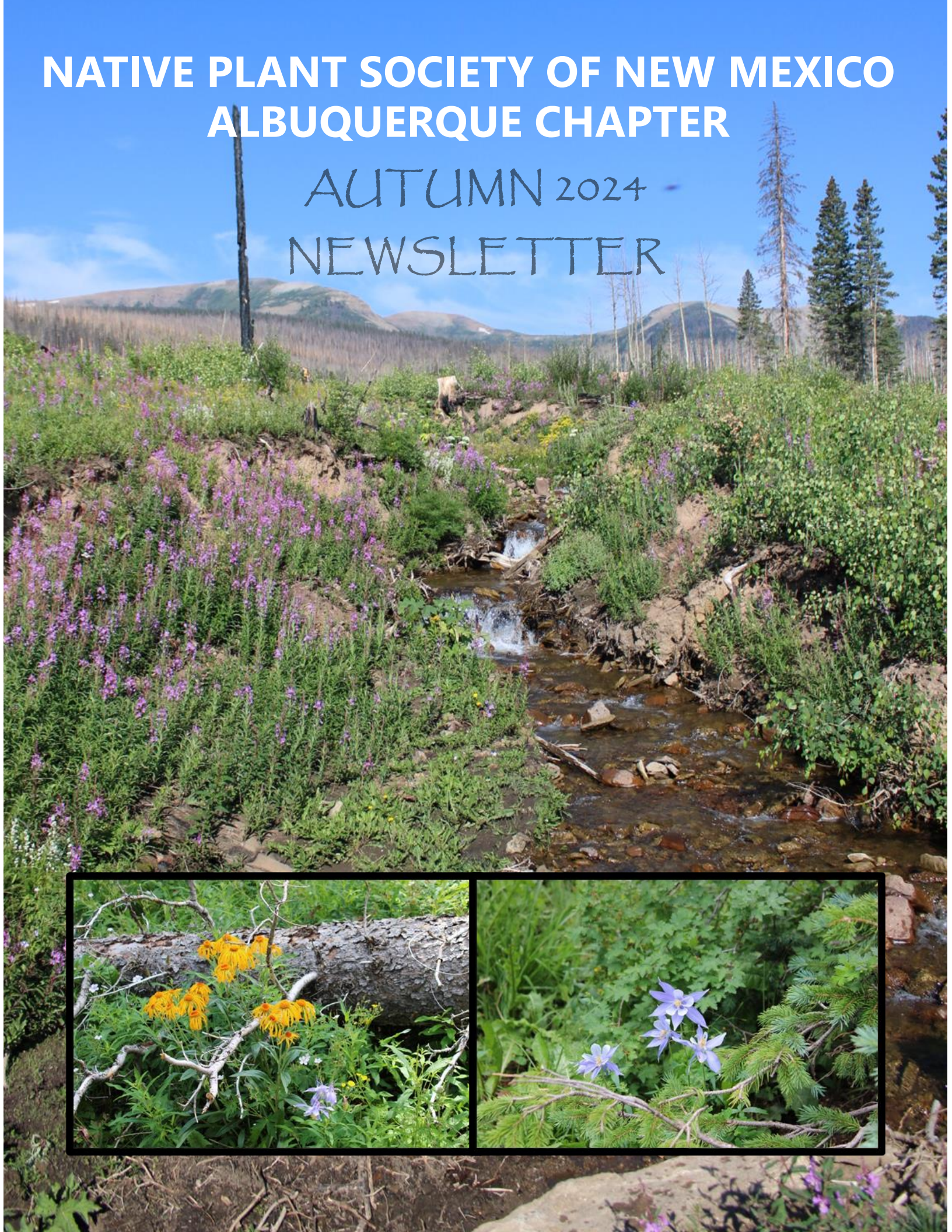


NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

AUTUMN 2024
NEWSLETTER



EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Taos Annual Meeting in July had beautiful field trips as you can see by the cover photos and story on pages 6-7. A visit to Sandia High School's Coati pond outdoor classroom is featured on page 5. A south valley teacher is asking for help by individuals to share experiences with APS third graders at the Los Padillas Elementary School and Wildlife Sanctuary on pages 8-9. The San Lorenzo Canyon field trip is featured on page 10 with a discussion of how you too can become a 2025 Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM officer.

This is my final newsletter for the Albuquerque chapter. I volunteered as chapter newsletter editor under the mentorship of the late George Oxford Miller in 2016, while I was undergoing cancer treatment. There were two of us volunteers who assembled our first newsletter in Autumn 2016. I consulted several other long-term volunteers to put together the 2017 Winter Pollinator newsletter. George Miller, Pam McBride, Judith Phillips, Virginia Burris, Bettie Hines, the late Carolyn Dodson, Gary Runyan, Jim McGrath, and many other volunteers wanted to host our *Pollinator Habitat Design Workshop* on two weekends in February 2017 so we all worked hard to successfully put it on. Dara Saville joined our chapter as secretary in 2017 while Tom Stewart was serving as president of the state Native Plant Society of New Mexico and as vice-president of our chapter.

I would like to thank all the contributors to the newsletter over these past eight years. We are very fortunate to have *all* the back issues posted on our NPSNM.org website for you to review.

Thanks a cloud of bushtits!

Enjoy,

Coati pond outdoor classroom at Sandia High School, a shady place for a summer class. Close your eyes; hear the insects?
Photo © Diane Stevenson



COVER PHOTOS

Looking towards Hermit's and nearby peaks after selective logging removed the burned conifers from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires of 2022. We were hiking July 26, 2024, on the Serpent Lake trail south of Sipapu Ski area during the Taos Chapter State NPSNM Conference. The creeks were running clear, 3-4 foot tall quaking aspen had stump-sprouted, and plentiful wildflowers in full bloom covered the hillsides, buzzing with insects. The blurry "dash" after 2024 is a flying raptor in the distance.

Inset Left: *Hymenoxis hoopseii*, Orange sneezeweed, *Geranium richardsonii*, Richardson's Geranium, and *Aquilegia coerulea*, Blue Columbine along a descending trail along a creek on the Angostura trail.

Inset Right: *Aquilegia coerulea* in an unburned area of the forest along the trail.

Photos © Diane Stevenson

President's Message

Dear Members,

In this last newsletter of 2024, I want to express my appreciation of your membership, participation and friendship that keeps us a strong and welcoming organization. It feels great to reflect on the diverse presenters we have had this year on a gamut of subjects, the splendid field trips, and the new and enthusiastic people we have met at meetings, the state conference in Taos, and public events where young and old brought their interest and curiosity to our table.



However, if you feel just so-so about the Native Plant Society or have a vision of what more it could be, we want to hear about it. We can't "please all of the people all of the time" but you can help us evolve and improve as times change. Please, please communicate your ideas and suggestions to our general e-mail, abq@npsnm.org. Better yet, get involved, suggest a speaker, take charge of some area of interest. Our operators are waiting! We can do so much more with a little dose of your energy.

I was enjoying Native Plant Society meetings for a couple of years, making friends, and learning a lot about our amazing New Mexico environment. Then someone suggested that I replace them on the board. First reaction: uh oh, a responsibility! But the next day I started thinking that maybe I should be more than just a consumer of talks and hikes.

Like many of you, for decades I contributed to numerous groups saving the bees, the wilderness, the planet, etc. In those same decades, native plant societies were the only voice for the plants that evolved to constitute the wilderness, be the habitat, ultimately feed and shelter every land organism. To save the bees, save the plants. Nearly everyone now has come to this understanding, and we all can feel good to have helped spread this awareness.

Despite Albuquerque being the largest among the seven chapters in our state organization, we have been dangerously short of people offering to fill some vital roles. Renewal of an organization comes with new leaders relieving those who have done their part. No term of office should be "life with good behavior," haha, and some wonderful people have lately been stepping in for 2025. Please come to our winter potluck and general meeting to greet and accept new officers on Saturday, December 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Open Space Visitors Center, 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Come early to set up your sharing and we will start on time. Please write to me at abq@npsnm.org, call/text 505-373-8779, or catch me at our monthly meetings.

-Tom Stewart

Westside Garden Tour Carol Conoboy

On July 13 we had the Westside Garden Tour, our first *garden* field trip since the pandemic. Over 30 people visited Janet Mura's and my gardens. Some members had not been on hiking trips and/or attended our meetings because of night driving issues.

Everyone who came saw numerous native flowers, shrubs and trees. Some participants dug plants and took seeds home. The bees, butterflies, and birds filled the air. Those who came wanted to learn more. Many wanted to do more with native plants.

Thank you for your participation and interest. It makes me wonder how else we can increase our programming to include more people. If you have ideas to share, please contact me at [carolconoboy \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:carolconoboy@gmail.com) or text me at 505-518-2171. I'd love to hear from you.



Dieteria canescens, Purple Aster
happily blooming in my orchard
Photo © Carol Conoboy

from HAWKS ALOFT:

Turn off outdoor lights at night
for bird migration

LIGHTS OUT
for birds during peak migration
Sept. 6 - Oct. 6

TWO THIRDS of all songbirds migrate at night. Light pollution can cause them to become confused. TRACY AVIARY encourages everyone to turn off all unnecessary lights. If this is not an option, use warm white or yellow colored light bulbs, shield your light bulbs to direct light down, and install motion sensors. If working indoors at night, close the drapes.

WORST BETTER BETTER BEST

COLDER BLuish WHITES WARMER YELLOWISH TONES or RED SHIELDED MOTION SENSORED OFF



Want a home garden with native plants?

ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

is hosted by the **Friends of the**

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>

Art by LWren Walraven

Build Your Backyard Refuge Day

Saturday, September 21 · 9:30am to 1pm



A New Mexico Ecology Lesson at Coati Pond Diane Stevenson

Coati pond is an outdoor environmental classroom at Sandia High School. Named for the white-nosed coati, *Nasua narica*, found in far southwestern New Mexico. Look it up, it's cool.

On July 11, 2024, Albuquerque chapter members met in the parking lot and were escorted by Jason Roback, the biology, ecology, and botany teacher who inspired the school to install the pond. The south wall of the building contains the plaque honoring the late Robert de Witt Ivey, his predecessor at Sandia High who wrote and drew line drawings for his five editions of *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*. The same wall also holds several murals by LWren Walraven commissioned by students at the school. The blues and whites of the White Sands mural is pictured above, a gift of the Class of 2016/17. Other walls have different ecosystems, animals, and plants depicted. All very lovely.

Doris Eng is pictured at right asking many questions of Jason Roback next to the biology classrooms.

We were treated to stories about the evolution of the pond, where only native New Mexico plants and some pond fish and amphibians live. The greenhouse is used for experiments, demonstrations, and student lessons.

What a treat to visit this cool spot on a hot summer day.



Thank you to our volunteers who made all the 2024 tabling events successful!

A Hermit's Peak Area Hike: Recovering from the Burn

Story & photos by Kent Condie &
Diane Stevenson

The Angostura and Serpent Lake trails start at 10,000 feet. Billed as a 'moderate' hike with an elevation gain of 700 feet in the NPSNM Taos conference flyer, the Angostura trail *descends* from the parking lot. Luckily, we field trip participants opted to ascend to 11,000 feet on part of the Serpent Lake trail before descending the Angostura trail a little way. Even with an early start, we were got warm in the 2022 Hermit's Peak burn scar area without many conifers to shade our travel.

Kent Condie posted this on our private facebook page with several captioned photos: "As part of the annual Native Plant Society state meeting in Taos, New Mexico, I was part of the hike on the Serpent Lake trail south of the Sipapu ski area. Over 30 species in bloom."



Serpent Lake trail ~11,000 feet near Hermit's Peak. This is Kent Condie's signature group selfie especially for those of you who are not facebook/meta fans like this editor isn't. You *can* learn to identify flowers from active chapter members on fb.

Photo © Kent Condie



The Taos Chapter guides kept our group together while we were led by the best trail guide ever; Will Jaremko-Wright (at left, photo © Kent Condie), the Taos County Agriculture/4H Extension agent. Kent got a great photo of Will closely examining the *Rudbeckia laciniata*, Cutleaf coneflower, as he taught us so much about fauna and flora.

Kent and I got a few photos of recovering vegetation and blooming natives including the ubiquitous *Chamerion angustifolia*, Fireweed. Fireweed was everywhere; absolutely beautiful juxtaposed with other colorful wildflowers and stump-sprouting *Populus tremuloides*, quaking aspen, holding soils on the slopes we traversed.

According to a recent Carson National Forest Service, the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire: Trail Conditions Report, "Portions of the trail were burned at high severity" and rehabilitation is a long-term process.

Clear streams, vegetated hillsides, insects and wildlife were living on the former burned site. Local entrepreneurs are gathering timber to sell. The area has a few stands of unburned tall conifers; the land is recovering. It is well worth a visit.



Chamerion angustifolia, Fireweed was blooming everywhere, attended by many pollinators

Photo © Kent Condie



Above: Colorful blooming wildflowers abuzz with pollinators during the Angostura/Serpent lake field trip hosted by the Taos chapter NPSNM state conference, 7/26/24.

Below: Scorched tree surrounded by Paintbrush, yarrow, harebells, oxeye daisy and other wildflowers preserving the soils on the mountain.

Trail sign at lower left.

Photos © Diane Stevenson



To Members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society,

I am a teacher at Los Padillas Elementary School and Wildlife Sanctuary. I am also a member of the APS Outdoor Learning Team. We host a field trip program where all 5,000 3rd grade students from Albuquerque Public Schools come to our sanctuary for a day of outdoor learning focused around community, place, and habitat. Our flyer (see next page) has my contact information and an explanation of what we are looking for to help wrap up the field trip day.

We have partnered with several organizations in Albuquerque to have guest speakers come and do a culminating activity/storytelling to close out the field trip. Our partnerships last year included Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation, First Nations Health Source, and Petroglyph National Monument. We are looking for more partnerships for this program in order to help local students learn more about their community and history.

Thank you,

Charlie Ciernia

Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary

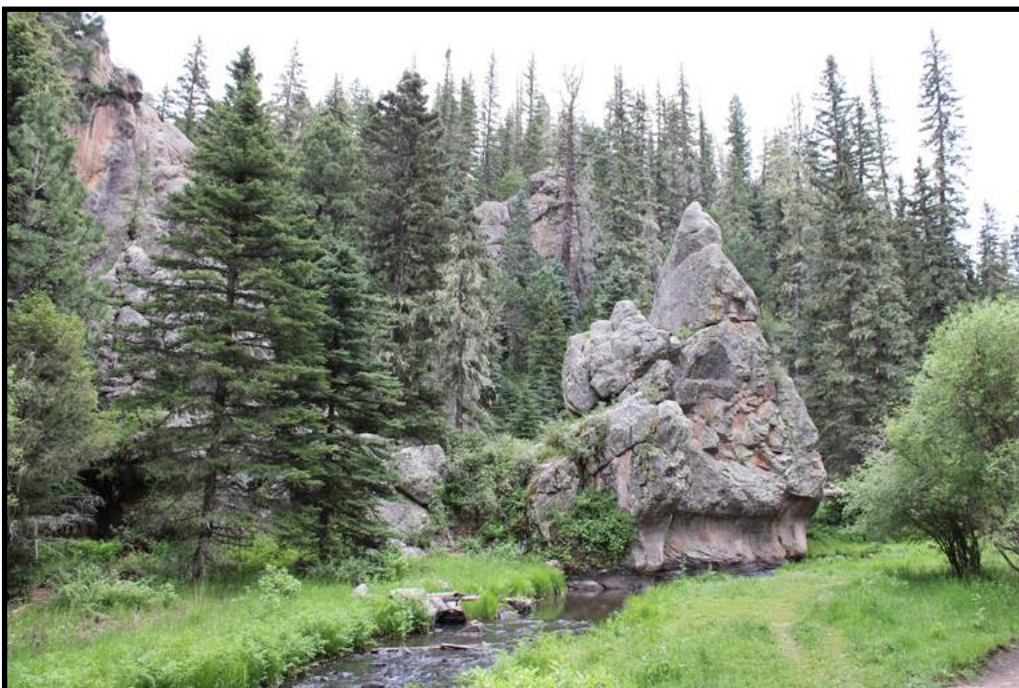
<https://lospadillas.aps.edu/our-school/los-padillas-wildlife-sanctuary>

Editor's Note

Please take a few minutes to visit the website above and the following page to learn about this opportunity. This is a 4-1/2 acre *ecological* site used as a teaching tool for third graders. Too often, STEM education leaves out ecology, biology, and chemistry in science while emphasizing engineering education (think

drones.) We native plant aficionados know the importance of ecology and biology (e.g. plants *are* food and medicines; biochemistry is essential in the medical fields.)

Besides, third graders are fun!



Lovely Las Conchas canyon scenery, 6/29/24 in addition to the abundance of wildflowers. There were many people present though it didn't seem crowded; everyone seemed happy just to be here.

Photo © Diane Stevenson

Want to help local students learn more about their community and local history?

Share your experiences with APS third graders
at Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary!



For the 24-25 school year, we're looking for folks to work with the students on weekdays for 30-45 minutes, between 11:30 and 1:30 depending on the school schedule for that day.

The Community, Place, and Habitat program is aligned to New Mexico 3rd grade social studies, geography, and science standards, and incorporates the concept of communities including animals, plants, humans, and all of the natural world. The students' day begins with an introduction, then they rotate through three learning stations, and finish up with a half hour session with a guest speaker.

We are seeking folks who have a wealth of knowledge to share and who might be good at interacting with 3rd grade children in order to help students recognize the diverse and unique ways people interact and have interacted with their communities and the natural world over time. It is our hope that we can find grandparents, aunts, uncles, farmers, historians, local South Valley and ABQ area residents, storytellers, elders, knowledge keepers, poets - anyone who wishes to share their knowledge, tell a story, play a game, etc. with the kids - so that they continue to develop and honor their own sense of community while learning about others.

Contact Charlie Ciernia to be a part of this fantastic program
charles.ciernia@aps.edu
cell: 512-554-5929

Welcome New Officers for 2025

***It's not too late to nominate yourself or someone else!**

By Tom Stewart

First, we owe tremendous thanks to those who have contributed so much in the past year or two (or more) and are rolling off of our board. Carmen Alexander has done much more than the typical VP. We wish her the best in her new home in Oregon. Sharon Miles coordinated our many field trips; she will be co-chairing a new membership & hospitality committee in 2025. Dana Loy stretched her busy schedule to serve as our state board representative and will be shifting energies to Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico. We thank Dara Saville for serving as recording secretary since 2017. We wish her the greatest possible outcome of her work toward a PhD. Thank you, Diane Stevenson for serving as newsletter editor since 2016.

Equal appreciation is felt for officers who are remaining in their service if not challenged by new candidates: Pam McBride, Dan Benton, Sara Keeney, Carol Conoboy, and Tom Stewart.

Now, meet some outstanding members who have volunteered to take positions on our board in the following offices.

Vice President: Colleen McKee

Chapter representative to the state board of NPSNM: Sara Keeney

Sara Keeney will continue initiating and scheduling monthly programs while training Yasmeen Najmi to replace her as Program Coordinator.

Recording Secretary: Brandon Moore

Membership and Hospitality co-chairs: Sharon Miles and Candace Stoughton

Field Trip Coordinator: Lee Regan

***Please Note:** you can nominate yourself (or a friend) for any office. E-mail us at abq@npsnm.org. We will formally vote to accept officers at our December potluck and officer election meeting December 14, 2024, 11 am to 1 pm at the Open Space Visitors Center, 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

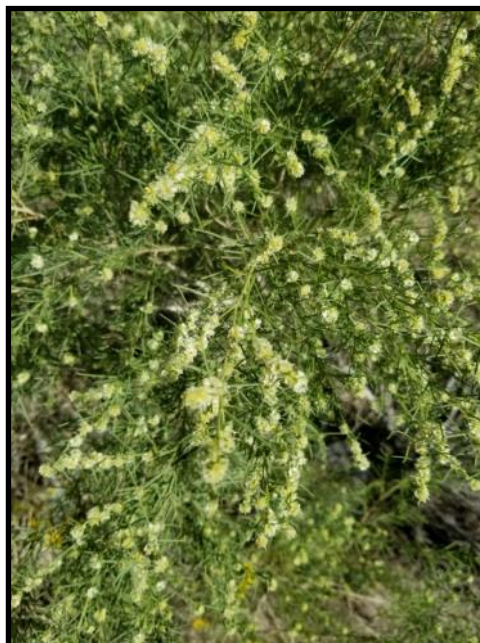
A Congenial group at far right, examining flowers of *Ambrosia monogyra*, Burrobrush, on the road to San Lorenzo Canyon in Socorro County, 9/24/24.

If you put a branch in a box and let it dry, you will understand the alternate sobriquet "Desert Fragrance." It smells like rain to me!

Far right, L to R, Pam McBride, Lenore Goodell, Michael Fernandez, Larry Goodell, Lee Regan, Brandon Moore.

Near right: closeup of *Ambrosia monogyra*

Photos © Doris Eng



October - December 2024 Meetings

Scheduled monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at 7:00 pm at the UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM. Meetings and presentations are free and open to the public. Meetings start at 7 pm.

Please come as early as 6:30 pm for socializing and browsing our native plant books for sale. For program ideas and more information, contact Sara Keeney at abq@npsnm.org or 505-379-3392

October 2 Meeting: Garden Prep for Native Plants by guest speaker Mike Halverson. As manager of the *Santa Ana Native Plant and Tree Nursery*, Mike will share expertise developed over years of providing low-water natives and other plants for wholesale landscaping sales. He will bring an array of plants to look at and will discuss plant characteristics, needs and placement. Supporting pollinators by planning for bloom throughout the season will be part of the presentation. To close out the evening, Mike will invite open discussion, hoping to share plant propagation techniques among participants. He says he may learn something from others who have successfully propagated plants for their gardens.

November 6 Meeting: Reforestation in New Mexico: Getting to Scale. Matthew Hurteau of UNM will tell us about efforts to reforest New Mexico after devastating wildfires. Challenges include: growing the necessary quantities of seedlings, planting in locations for maximum impact and helping the seedling trees stay alive.

Matthew Hurteau is a Professor of Quantitative Ecology in the Department of Biology at the University of New Mexico and is Director of the Center for Fire Resilient Ecosystems and Society.

December 14, Saturday - Potluck & Officer Election

11 am to 1 pm

Open Space Visitors Center, 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. We look forward to welcoming you and your friends who might be interested in more participation with NPSNM-Albuquerque.

SAVE THE DATES 2025:

January 8, 2025, 7 pm, Albuquerque Chapter January Meeting

February 5, 2025, 7 pm, Albuquerque Chapter February Meeting

March 5, 2025, 7 pm, Albuquerque Chapter March Meeting

October 2-5, 2025 - State Meeting in Las Cruces, NM. Theme: Responsible Beauty

Fall Field Trips - Late September 2024 update

All field trips are subject to revision and details will be sent to your member e-mail address. Always contact trip leaders at least two days ahead of time (48 hours) to learn final arrangements as dates, meeting times, and locations often change after the schedule is published.

For future field trips or to volunteer as leader or co-leader, contact Field Trip Coordinator Sharon Miles: [sharon \[at\] seniorcareoptions \[dot\] net](mailto:sharon@seniorcareoptions.net), 505-604-6307.

October 3 (Thursday) Lower Domingo Baca Canyon. Leader: Tom Stewart, [tomstewart \[at\] swcp \[dot\] com](mailto:tomstewart@swcp.com) or text 505-373-8779, A gradual uphill hike from Elena Gallegos foothills picnic area into a canyon with riparian habitat, some of the biggest trees on the west side of the Sandias and signs of autumn appearing. Birders alert: migrants often seen here and overhead.

Etcetera

- * Our website, <https://www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/albuquerque/> hosts the late George Oxford Miller's **Wildflowers of New Mexico** website: <https://www.npsnm.org/wildflowersnm/Home.html>
- * The City of Albuquerque (**CABQ**) Solid Waste Department usually has their fall **Green Waste pickup** right after Thanksgiving. It is not on the website yet. **Tip:** Start collecting compostable vegetation in trash bags (better yet, paper yard waste bags) as you clean up this fall and stack where your neighbors can see what you are doing to encourage participation in the twice-yearly program.
- * **The Black Range Naturalist** - The October 2024 issue of the *Black Range Naturalist* is now available as a free download on our website:
<http://blackrange.org/the-black-range-naturalist/>
- * **The Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque** - Saturday October 19, 2024, 9 am: Members' Meeting **10 am: Presentation - Margo Murdock**, master gardener will give a presentation on the topic *What is that?--A weed or a native plant?* Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Free Admission
<http://xericgardenclub.org/calendar.html>



I would LOVE to hear from you!

Please submit any feedback about the newsletter I've edited since Autumn 2016. This is my final newsletter. Look for my articles in the state newsletter in the future. Send an e-mail to Diane Stevenson, distevenson331 [at] hotmail [dot] com. **Thank you for reading these past 8 years!**

Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at <https://www.npsnm.org/about/join/>

NPSNM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of native New Mexico flora. The Society, and its local chapters, work to educate its members and promote the conservation of our native flora so future generations may enjoy our valuable resource.

Membership Benefits

Members benefit from regional chapter meetings, field trips, an annual meeting, and four issues of the state newsletter each year. Some chapters also hold plant sales and annual seed exchanges and offer discounts on a variety of books providing information on native plant identification and gardening with New Mexico native plants.

Albuquerque Chapter Benefits

Members who show a valid NPSNM membership card

- Qualify for Plant World membership
- Receive a 10% discount at Plants of the Southwest

NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter

2023 Board of Directors

President: Tom Stewart
Vice President: Carmen Alexander
Program: Sara Keeney
Secretary: Dara Saville
Treasurer: Dan Benton
State Board Rep.: Dana Loy
Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski
Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson
Conservation: Pam McBride
Outreach Events: Carol Conoboy

Core Group (essential volunteers)

Books: Lee Regan
Communications: Carmen Alexander
Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles
Publicity: Janet Mura