

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NEWSLETTER

April, May, June 2005 Volume XXX Number 2

Endangered Species Act Reconsidered

Excerpted from *Discover Magazine*, January 2005.

In its 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has prevented the extinction of many endangered plant and animal species. But a report by the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) last May stirred a debate among biologists, environmentalists and policymakers about whether the act is due for an overhaul.

"If extinction is the ultimate criterion by which to judge agency implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the failure has been spectacular," the report says.

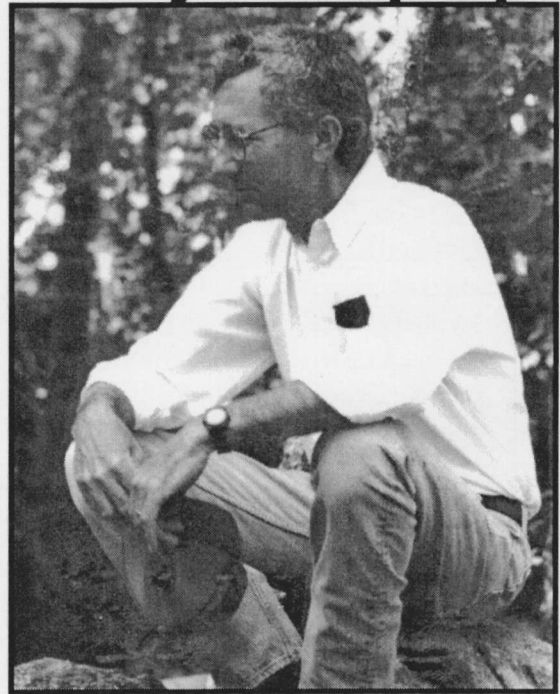
Echoing other environmental studies, the Center concluded that low funding, political interests, and mismanagement at the Department of the Interior led to the disappearance of more than 80 under-protected U.S. species that never made it onto the endangered list.

Among other things, says the CBD report, environmental litigation severely hampers efforts to list more species by siphoning off money for legal costs.

"What you have is the Endangered Species Act being run by lawyers and judges rather than professional biologists," says Hugh Vickery, an Interior Department spokesman. "I don't think this is very effective."

Kieran Suckling, a coauthor of the CBD report, contended that the number of protected species should be increased from 1,270 to roughly 1,500. Says Suckling, "Species don't readily go extinct when they're on the list."

Sivinski to Keynote Annual Meeting in Albuquerque



Bob ponders his talk. Story Page 2

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U.S. lawn-care industry fighting back against pesticide bans

By *JOAN LOWY*

Scripps Howard News Service

January 17, 2005

Fearing that a Canadian movement to ban the use of pesticides on lawns will take root in the United States, the lawn-care industry has thrown down the gauntlet. Project Evergreen, a trade association formed by pesticide makers, applicators, garden centers and mower manufacturers plans to launch a national public-relations campaign this spring touting the health and lifestyle benefits of thick, green lawns.

The "green industry," as the lawn-products industry calls itself, has reason to worry. Increasing concern about the impact of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers on human health and the environment is fueling a movement to ban or restrict the "cosmetic" or "aesthetic" use of artificial chemicals for lawns and gardens.

Over the last several years, the pesticide industry has successfully lobbied state legislatures to pass what are known as "pre-emption laws." These give states responsibility for pesticide regulation and prevent cities and towns from enacting their own laws. So far, thirty states have adopted pre-emption laws.

"Local communities generally do not have the expertise on issues about pesticides to make responsible decisions," said Allen James, president of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), a pesticide-industry lobbying group. "Decisions are made much more carefully and the train moves much more slowly at the state level."

At the same time, however, 20 states have adopted laws requiring signs or some sort of public notification when pesticides are applied to lawns. Dozens of communities have also adopted policies barring or restricting the use of pesticides on school property, public ball fields and parks.

Beyond Pesticides, an environmental group in Washington, DC, says, "The chemical lawn care industry is worried that the word is getting out on the toxic hazards of lawn pesticides. It is possible to have a green lawn *without* toxic pesticides."

BOB SIVINSKI TO KEYNOTE ANNUAL MEETING

When Beth Herschman from Albuquerque Chapter asked Bob Sivinski to deliver a keynote address on land ethics, with a philosophical bent, he says he was initially reluctant. "I'm more accustomed to talking about the New Mexico flora and plant taxonomy, but finally accepted the challenge. Will do me good to stand up and state my beliefs – bear witness to a congregation."

Bob's interest in the New Mexico environmental scene began in high school in Albuquerque and then became more focused in college. He received his BS and MS in Wildlife Biology at New Mexico State University in 1978 and 1980, respectively. After short stints as a Range Conservationist for the BLM and a private biological consultant, he enrolled at the University of New Mexico for several years of graduate study in botany. Bob still maintains a UNM connection as a Curatorial Associate at the Herbarium in the Museum of Southwestern Biology.

For the last 20 years, Sivinski has been employed by the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, for the first five years reclaiming coal mines, and the last 15 years working as Botanist for the Forestry Division. His focus has been mostly with rare and endangered plant species.

In recent years, Bob has labored to develop programs for conservation easements on private forests, purchase of recovery habitats for endangered species; and tax incentives for conservation land donations. He also occasionally does analysis for the Governor's Office and was recently involved in the environmental battle over Otero Mesa.

As to his keynote address, Bob says "I admire people who obtain inspiration from the natural world, so that is the title of my talk. For these people, going to the field results in actions like natural history scholarship, artistic expression, political activism, or spiritual awakening. NPSNM is filled with inspired people. Let's increase our efforts to share that inspiration with a wider public." Bob is a past-President of NPSNM and is also enthusiastic about nature photography.

SPECIAL NOTE RE ANNUAL MEETING

If you are interested in the Pollination Workshops, visit the NPS website at <http://npsnm.unm.edu> and follow the link to the 2005 Annual Meeting Program Details. You will find a form on which to record your own backyard pollinator sightings prior to the meeting under the description of Workshop I and Workshop IV. Bring this sighting information with you to the Annual Meeting.

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization, and is free to members. The NPSNM 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. Manuscripts and artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor:

*POBox 607, Arroyo Seco NM 87514
andrzej@laplaza.org*

Next Deadline is June 1, 2005

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. A wide selection of books dealing with plants, landscaping, and other environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cacti poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

Proofreaders: Jane Mygatt, Donna Stevens,
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- Albuquerque
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- Taos

I am interested in forming a new chapter in

Annual Dues:

Individual or Family.....	\$20
Friend of Society.....	\$30
Supporting Member.....	\$50
Sponsor.....	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor.....	\$500
Life Member.....	\$1,000
Limited Income, Family, Students & Seniors (65+).....	\$12

Endowment contribution \$ _____
Total \$ _____

*Make your check payable to
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and send to
Membership Secretary
P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004*

CONSERVATION CORNER

Jim Nellessen

Upcoming Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Revisions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Cruces Field Office, will be revising and updating its Tri-County Resource Management Plans. This three-county-district includes Doña Ana, Otero, and Sierra Counties.

BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are 15- to 20-year comprehensive plans that guide the agency's land management activities. Revising and updating these plans will require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process begins with an initial scoping period. Although this scoping period will be over by the time you read this (it ends March 28, 2005), comment periods will be open at other times during this process. The Conservation Committee of NPSNM will have submitted comments by March 28.

Drafts of the new RMP and EIS are currently scheduled for the summer of 2006. Natural resources and human and social aspects of the plan that would potentially interest native plant enthusiasts are vegetation (and the air, water, and soil that goes along with supporting the vegetation), special status species, noxious weeds, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, recreation, visual resources, and fire management.

Some of the questions the BLM is posing are: How can the Las Cruces Field Office accommodate potentially competing interests? What types of constraints should be placed on resource uses? What should be the limits and magnitude of BLM's management?

I encourage people to track this process and comment as you may be interested. The web site to check is www.nm.blm.gov under the Planning/NEPA link. *The controversial Otero Mesa, that you have likely heard about, lies within this management area.* The oil and gas drilling plans for that area are a separate and specific plan. The RMPs being addressed now are broad and comprehensive in scope. This is a chance for people to send in their comments.

BLM manages 43% of the land in this three county area. There is a lot of checker-board land across the area (inclusions of private and state land, mostly). This area sits in the heart of that portion of the Chihuahuan Desert occurring within New Mexico.

Some things to think about: Is it possible for the BLM to work on consolidating some of that land through land swaps to make it more contiguous? Is it possible to increase the sizes of areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), wilderness study areas, areas of botanical interest, or areas with unique or high quality visual aspects?

I still have a dream of a larger Chihuahuan Desert Preserve in New Mexico. New Mexico lags far behind other southwestern states in officially preserving desert habitats. Maybe this is an opportunity to start moving in that direction.

I encourage interested people to track and respond to the BLM's request for involvement with constructive and positive comments.

“Anything else you’re interested in is not going to happen if you can’t breathe the air and drink the water. Don’t sit this one out. Do something. You are, by accident of fate, alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.”

Carl Sagan

***Check out the
NPSNM Plant Resources
webpage:***

[Http://npsnm.unm.edu/merchandise/plant_resources.htm](http://npsnm.unm.edu/merchandise/plant_resources.htm)

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Send Membership Dues & Changes of Address to:
Membership Secretary,
P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004

We learned as we were going to press that our friend Sara Stein passed away after a long struggle with cancer. Sara is perhaps best known to native plant enthusiasts as the author of *Noah's Garden* and its sequel, *Planting Noah's Garden*.

WANTED:**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

After four-plus years editing this newsletter, I've decided that it isn't fair that I hog all the fun. So I've informed Wynn Anderson and the NPSNM Board that I'd like to step down and asked that a replacement be sought.

It could be you!

Think about it. You'll get to nag people into submitting articles. You'll be able to write editorials that will annoy other members. And you'll be invited to board meetings where you can rub elbows with the power-elite of this organization: chapter presidents, recording secretaries, committee heads... Yes, it can be an intoxicating experience, and it can be yours.

Not qualified, you say? Nonsense! Can you type 12 words a minute? Do you know the plural of cactus? Can you spell Sivinski? Yes? Then you're abundantly qualified. And don't worry about making typos... nobody's prefect.

Seriously — if I've tempted you, give me a call and we'll talk it over. I'll even help you put out your first edition. Prestige, power and personal satisfaction are just a phone call (or email) away. Contact me at 505-776-1498 or andrzej@laplaza.org.



RIPARIAN RESEARCH FUNDED BY NPSNM

Kathy Whiteman

In 2002, I was fortunate to receive funding in part from the NPSNM to conduct research on the vegetation dynamics of the Gila River in southwestern New Mexico. Riparian (river) ecosystems are among the most threatened ecosystems in North America. Anthropogenic modifications in these systems through the introduction of nonnative species, groundwater depletion and stream dewatering have contributed to the alteration and loss of riparian areas around the world.

The purpose of my 2002-2004 research was to address the over-arching hypothesis that the vegetation structure along the free-flowing (un-dammed) Gila River reflected a temporal stability associated with natural flow regimes.

Historic accounts, although lacking in quantitative data, were useful in providing a rough approximation of vegetation changes that have occurred over the last two centuries. Based on these accounts, I predicted that (1) historically dominant cottonwood-willow (*Populus* spp. and *Salix* spp., respectively; Family Salicaceae) forests would define riparian corridors associated with the river; (2) cottonwoods would be well represented by various size-class cohorts; and finally, (3) invasion by nonnative salt cedars (*Tamarix* spp.; Family Tamaricaceae) would be minimal.

Current research has shown that riparian areas where salt cedars have become successful invaders had previously undergone extreme changes in hydrology through various land use practices which include damming, diversion, and groundwater pumping.

To determine any shift from historic vegetation composition, I collected data from sites along 100 miles of the Middle Fork, the East Fork and the Main Stem of the Gila River. The West Fork was not included. I compared current plant community structure to historic accounts which describe riparian areas of the Southwest. Basal diameter measurements of trees found in sampled plots allowed me to examine size class structure of cottonwoods, while GPS mapping techniques allowed me to determine the extent of invasion by nonnative salt cedars.

These results indicate the Middle Fork is the only branch of the Gila River which supports historically dominant riparian plant communities. Willow and narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) are the dominant species.

On the East Fork, dominant species are New Mexico privet (*Forestiera neomexicana*; Family Oleaceae) and junipers (Family Cupressaceae). Along the Main Stem, dominant species are seep-willow baccharis (*Baccharis salicifolia*; Family Asteraceae), willow, alder (*Alnus oblongifolia*; Family Betulaceae) and alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*; Family Cupressaceae). On these latter two reaches, Fremont and hybrid cottonwood species comprise only a small fraction of the total flora in sampled plots and are not the dominant tree species.

The majority of cottonwoods in sampled plots are small diameter, found close to the river and, as such, prone to river scouring. Cottonwoods are not evenly represented by size class cohorts. No cottonwoods between 200 and 550 cm occurred in sampled plots, although the diameter of two trees in sampled lots exceeded 550 cm.

Unexpectedly, salt cedars were well represented across all reaches of the river, being especially abundant on the East Fork. They were not found on the Middle Fork above about 1800 m in elevation, but were common along the Main Stem of the River from the River's confluence with the East Fork to the southern boundary of the study area near Turkey Creek.

Most research attributes the decline of cottonwood gallery forests and the subsequent rise in nonnative salt cedars to river modifications; the portions of the river represented by this study flow through a designated wilderness area and, as such, are free from impoundment or development. It is not clear what factors are driving shifts in plant community structure, but direct modification to the natural flow regime does not appear to be the primary driver.

Unfortunately, the possibility of development of Gila River water became a reality in December 2004. Although plans are vague and possibly twelve years away from implementation, an amendment to the Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act allows up to 14,000 acre-feet per year to be drawn from the Gila and San Francisco rivers into a holding area.

Successful conservation of these rivers will require knowledge on the dependence of riparian species to surface water and groundwater, as well as the feedbacks between riparian vegetation and stream and groundwater dynamics.

Kathy was just awarded another grant from NPSNM for \$1,000. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in the Department of Biology at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. She can be reached at: kwhitema@nmsu.edu

***2005 Annual Meeting
of the
Native Plant Society
of
New Mexico
Thurs. August 11–Sun. August 14
at the Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM***

NATIVE PLANTS
URBAN INTERACTION

Thursday August 11

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Registration. Silent Auction drop-off. Please bring items for donation to the silent auction.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Gathering & Refreshments, Book Sale, NPS Authors' Booksigning, Native Plant Society Art Show. All members of the Native Plant Society who have artworks pertaining to Native Plants (paintings, sculpture, photography) who wish to show their works are invited to Participate. Some of the art works will be for sale. Contact *Bob Sivinski (505) 476-3347* or *bsivinski@state.nm.us* for entry information or just to be included.

All the above Activities are held at the Albuquerque Garden Center.

Friday August 12

8:00-12:00 a.m.	Registration & Silent Auction drop-off. Please bring items for donation to the silent auction.
8:30 - 12:25 p.m.	Seminars
8:30 a.m.	Speaker: Roger Alink, Wildlife West, "Restoring Farmed Land to a Rich Habitat Environment"
9:35 a.m.	Speaker: Don Sias, "Making a Favorable Habitat for Reptiles and Amphibians in Your Yard"
10:40 a.m.	Speaker: Judith Phillips, Noted Author and Landscape Designer, "Building Backyard Habitats Using Native Plants" (This session is part of a track that includes workshops 1 and 4 and field trips A and K; however, it is not necessary to remain in the track.)
11:40 a.m.	Speaker: David Mehlman, Ornithologist for The Nature Conservancy, "Bird Habitat Requirements in an Urban Environment"
12:25 p.m.	Catered Box Lunch. Silent Auction Opens. Book Sales
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Workshops
Workshop 1	Steve Cary, Leader, "Backyard Habitats for Butterflies and Other Pollinators" Bring your photos or careful drawings of butterflies in your area and, for each, note the time of day, date, and the plant on which it was found. We will work with key elements of habitat (structure, caterpillar food and adult food) and help you plan your backyard for butterflies and other pollinators.
Workshop 2	Andy Wasowski, Leader, "Photographing Native Plants" Bring Camera. Limit 20.
Workshop 3	DeWitt Ivey, Leader, "Learning to Identify Plants from the Plant Key Books" Bring your own book(s). Limit 20.
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Plant Sale and Honey Tasting
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Workshops
Workshop 4	Joran Viers, Leader, "Habitats for Bees, Flies & Other Insect Pollinators of Native Plants" Bring your pictures of insects from your area and, for each, note the time of day, date, and plant on which it was found. The insects will be identified and their habitat requirements will be discussed.
Workshop 5	Jane Mygatt, Herbarium Collections Manager, Leader, "The Process of Collecting, Data Gathering, Mounting and Preserving Plant Specimens for Scientific Use" At the UNM Herbarium. Limit 8-10.
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Break for Dinner (on your own)
7:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Chris Martin, Arizona State University, "The Ecology of Desert Cities: How Sociocultural and Technological Factors Influence use of Native Vegetation in Phoenix, Arizona"

Suggested Places of Interest for Individual Exploration:

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

This is a showcase for the different Pueblos' arts and crafts and there is a museum in the basement which displays pre-Columbian artifacts and information about the Pueblos.

Museums of Old Town

Old Town Albuquerque is a destination of its own, filled with shops and restaurants. There are a number of interesting museums within walking distance of the Plaza: the **Albuquerque Museum** (Art and History); The **Atomic Museum** (early atomic science, including bombs and rockets); the **Natural History Museum** (a walk through geologic and paleontologic time); the Children's **Explora** (Science) Museum. On the Plaza you'll find the **Rattlesnake Museum** and the old church, **San Felipe De Neri**, which also has a small museum. The church museum accepts donations; all other museums have entrance fees. A map of Old Town is available in the Albuquerque magazine which will be in your packet.

Albuquerque BioPark

The BioPark includes the Zoo, the Aquarium, and the Botanical Gardens. The aquarium and botanic gardens are located on the same grounds and have a single admission fee. There are several areas in the Botanical Gardens, each devoted to a different theme or region. There is a substantial native plant region, including one devoted to the herbs used by the early Spanish Curanderos. The aquarium is based on the Rio Grande and where it travels on its way to the ocean, and includes the ocean species of fish as well. The Zoo is quite interesting because each animal's enclosure is landscaped with plants mimicing the animal's native habitat.

Saturday August 13

7:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Field Trips

All field trips will meet in the parking lot at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Plan to carpool. Bring hat, water, and sunscreen. Lunch will be on your own, so try one of the many restaurants located near your destination.

Field Trip A: 7:45 a.m. *Backyard Habitats*, Leader Judith Phillips, noted Landscape Designer & Author. The habitat field trip will visit selected yards to discuss what we see, not as a static assembly of plants, but as an interdependent community of native plants, pollinators, predators, larvae, and nectar plants. We'll visit Virginia Burris' urban backyard, which is Habitat Certified by the National Wildlife Federation; Landscape Architect, David Cristiani's home, where Chihuahuan Desert Grassland meets the Chaparral of the Sandia Foothills; and Wes & Sally Brittenham's urban yard, in which over 40 bird species have been identified. David Mehlman, Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy's Migratory Bird Program and a bird habitat specialist, will also be on the tour to share his observations. *This is a follow-up to the Habitat Seminars and Workshops from Friday.* Limit 25 people.

Field Trip B: 8:30 a.m. *Landscape at the Albuquerque Zoo*, Leader Carol McClenin, Zoo Horticulturist, designed the landscape for the newly opened African exhibit. She will describe the process of selecting plants that resemble the native flora for each animal and yet are adapted to our climate. Tour will end at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$7.00 per person (\$3.00 for those 65 and older). Limit 25.

Field Trip C: 8:30 a.m. *UNM Herbarium*, Leader Timothy Lowery, Curator, will conduct a tour through the Herbarium in the newly renovated Southwestern Museum building. Established in 1928, the herbarium now houses over 100,000 specimens and is actively used by staff and students for research about New Mexico flora, rare and endangered plants, biosystematics, and molecular systematics. Tour will end at 10:30 a.m. Limit 25.

Field Trip D: 8:30 a.m. *Rio Grande Nature Center State Park*, Leader Rob Yaksich, RGNC Education Specialist, will take us through the pollinator garden. This state park is located in Albuquerque along the Rio Grande. The pollinator garden was designed, planted, and labeled by NPS members. We will also see the xeriscape garden and observe the ongoing bosque restoration. Tour will end at 10:30 a.m. Limit 25.

Field Trip E: 8:30 a.m. *New Mexico Natural History Museum Landscape*, Leader Gary Runyan, Landscape Manager. The museum is landscaped with native New Mexico plants in separate areas which represent the major ecological areas of the state. Gary will discuss the plant selection and cultivation. He will also point out the plant volunteers and their succession in this mature landscape. Tour will end at 10:30 a.m. Limit 25.

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch - on your own

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Seminars

1:00 p.m. Speaker: Barry Kues, Geologist, "*Geology & Paleontology of the Albuquerque Area*"

2:00 p.m. Speaker: Pearl Sunrise, Ethnobotanist & Native American, "*Pre-Columbian Population's Impact on and Use of Native Plants*"

3:05 p.m. Speaker: Bill Dunmire, noted Author, "*Apples, Coriander and Watermelons: Spanish Plantways to New Mexico*"

4:15 p.m. Speaker: Bonnie Dils, Albuquerque Open Space Division, "*Urban Preservation of Wild Spaces in Albuquerque*"

6:30 p.m. Gather at The Cooperage Restaurant for Banquet

7:45 p.m. Banquet Speaker: Bob Sivinski, "*Inspiration from the Natural World*"

Sunday August 14

Field Trips

Sunday field trips will meet in the Garden Center parking lot. Carpooling is suggested. You can order a box lunch (\$6) for Sunday from a menu at the Registration desk. The box lunch includes sandwich, salad, cookie, and drink. Orders can be placed either Friday or Saturday. The box lunches will be delivered to the parking lot on Sunday morning.

Field Trip F: 8:00 a.m. *Manzano Mountains*, Leader Gene Jercinovic, author of "Flora of the Manzanos," will take us to Red Canyon, one of the most botanically diverse areas in the Manzanos. The hike will be three miles round trip up a wooded, mountain stream. Wear good walking shoes and bring lunch and water. We will carpool to Tajique where we will meet our leader. Hike will end at 1:00 p.m. Limit 25.

Field Trip G: 8:00 a.m. *Tent Rocks*, Leader Margo Murdock will take us to Tent Rocks, located at Cochiti Pueblo, halfway between Albuquerque & Santa Fe - a slightly more than one hour drive. Kasha-Katuwe or Tent Rocks is one of the newest and most unusual national monuments in New Mexico. It is primarily known for the unique geology and hoodoos - only Turkey contains similar geology. Tent Rocks also contains an interesting variety of plants in its varied microclimates, even moss on the walls of one section. The slot canyon trail is a one-way trail, about 3.2 miles round-trip, rising 630 feet to the top of the mesa. It is comfortable for summer hiking, but wear good walking shoes and bring lunch and water. We will stop at a store in Cochiti Lake to carpool the last five miles which is on a gravel road. Hike will end at 1:00 p.m. Limit 25.

Field Trip H: 8:30a.m. *Malpais Volcanic Area*, Leader Bill Dodson will take us on a tour of this recent volcanic flow. You will see unusual geologic formations in a beautiful pinyon-juniper region. We will take short, moderately strenuous hikes at the overlook, lava falls, and the Narrows. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on the rough and sharp terrain, and bring lunch and water. Hike will end at 2:00 p.m. No limit.

Field Trip J: 8:30 a.m. *Sandia Crest Trail*, Leader Pearl Burns, National Forest Trail volunteer will guide us on a hike along Sandia crest. We will drive to the crest parking lot at 10,600 feet and walk to the tram where we will have lunch, then return. The trail is relatively flat and the walk will be leisurely. Wear good walking shoes and bring a jacket and water. The restaurant serves sandwiches and drinks or you can bring your own lunch. Flower lists will be handed out. Hike will end at 2:00 p.m. Limit 25.

Field Trip K: 8:30 a.m. *The Alameda Solar Community Homeowners Association*, Leader Virginia Burris will take us to a community of eight families living in the far North Valley of Albuquerque. There, homeowner Gary Carlson will give us a tour of the community which has been developing a wildlife habitat on their 5 acres of common land for the past 15 years. In the last two years, with the help of two federal grants, they have removed all non-native trees and grasses and replanted native species. As the new trees, shrubs and grasses mature, the community looks forward to an enhanced relationship with the insects, birds and animals that are a natural part of this river valley environment. Tour will end at 11:30 a.m. Limit 25.

Hotels and Registration Information

We have been able to get very special rates with the Quality Inn (\$52/night) and Econolodge (\$40.95/night), not including a 12.75% tax. These rates apply to rooms with either 2 double beds or 1 king bed. These two hotels are located north of I-40 at the Eubank Exit #165, turn right on Lomas, right at Hotel Circle to #25. They are a couple of blocks from the Garden Center, and are run by the same people and share pool and spa facilities. The rates for either hotel include a full breakfast buffet located in the Quality Inn. The Quality Inn Rooms are larger and include a refrigerator and coffeemaker and both facilities have ironing boards, irons, and hairdryers.

Quality Inn, Phone 505 271-1000

Econolodge, Phone 505 314-2525

They will hold these rooms until July 21, then will be released to the general public at higher prices. Call soon for reservations at these rates. ***Be sure to tell them that you are with the New Mexico Native Plant Society.***



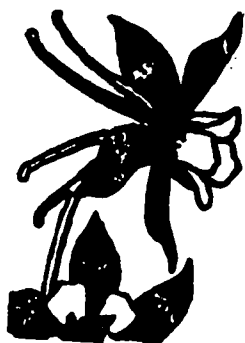
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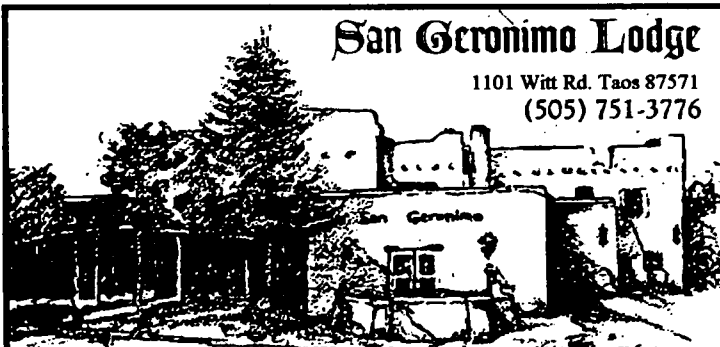


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Letters to the Editor

I read with interest the article about the Chinaberry Tree in New Mexico, "A Botanical Mystery," by Dr. Kelly Allred in the last newsletter. It helps me with a related 'mystery'. In recent years I've been wondering if the Chinaberry Tree, also referred to as the Pride of India, so common around Alamo-gordo and La Luz where I live now, might not be related to a familiar tree, the Neem tree, also widely distributed where I grew up in Lucknow, India.

In spite of some differences, the appearance of the two trees is quite similar, as are the berries and flowers. Taking a clue from Dr. Allred's genus and species description, *Melia azedarach*, I researched the Neem tree. It is *Margosa azadirachta indica*, family Meliaceae (same family as the Chinaberry Tree), also termed *Azadirachta indica* in "Hobson-Jobson", c. 1886.


This plant is considered sacred in India, and is possessed of remarkable medicinal properties. Tender stems are still used as toothbrushes. One end is chewed a bit to prepare a "brush" and to release astringent juices. There is a commercially distributed Neem toothpaste, as well as Neem-based germicidal salves, soaps, and pesticides, the latter very effective against aphids. Poultices and infusions are made from fresh Neem leaves to heal skin infections, and dried leaves are burned for fumigation purposes.

Would anyone know if the Chinaberry tree is comparably endowed?

*Etty Proctor
La Luz, New Mexico*

The Neem (or Nim) Tree is *Azadirachta indica* Jussieu, in the Meliaceae, as is the Chinaberry tree (*Melia azedarach* L.). It differs most noticeably in that it has once-pinnate leaves, rather than the multi-pinnate leaves of the Chinaberry. It has been introduced in the United State in planting trials in Florida, California, Oklahoma, and Arizona (and perhaps elsewhere), but I know of no reports of it being grown in New Mexico. Our common Chinaberry tree is also interesting medicinally, its berries are toxic, and an extract of bark or fruit is used to kill parasitic roundworms. Chinaberry has also been used to induce abortions, and as an antiseptic, purgative, diuretic, insect repellent, etc.

Kelly Allred




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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Albuquerque

Meeting in the Pinon Room of the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd, between Eubank & Wyoming in Los Altos Park.

April 7. "How to Test for Your Soil Type," Roy Katon, plus Science Fair Presentations and Awards.

April 16. Field Trip. Placitas Open Space, led by William Dunmire. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the SW corner of Placitas Mercantile Shopping Center parking lot. Call 323-1697 for more information.

April 23. Plant Sale.

May 5. "Wildflowers of the Pecos River Area," Pearl Burns.

May 14. Field Trip. Pecos River Ranch, to view spring wildflowers, led by the ranch's botanist. Tentative, confirm at 323-1697.

June 11. Field Trip. Tour the trees and plants in George Duda's yard. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call 323-1697 for address and directions.

Gila (Silver City)

Programs at 7 PM, Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus.

April 15. "Film: Otero Mesa in Bloom after Rain." Trisha London of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will present this film showing Otero Mesa in bloom after rain. She also will talk about the wilderness campaign for the Organ Mountains and present information on native medicinal plants.

April 17. Overnight camp-out to Otero Mesa, led by Trisha London.

May 22. Field Trip. Gila Box area above the Nature Conservancy near Cliff.

May 21 & 22. "Gila River Festival: Plant Identification Walks." Plant ID walks on Saturday and Sunday, one each in the morning and afternoon. Led by Donna Stevens and Cynthia Hunter.

Mid to late May. "Lichen Workshop," led by Reese Lolly from the Gila National Forest Service. He suggested holding two evening meetings, one for looking at various lichens and the other for work in the laboratory.

June 19. Field Trip. Spirit Canyon area near Lake Roberts.

Las Cruces

Programs at 7 PM, Conference Room, Social Center, University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

April 13. "Plant Propagation Technologies," Dan Manuchia, of Plant Propagation Technologies.

April 16. Field Trip. White Sands Nat'l Monument. Meet 7:00 am at K-Mart parking lot on Hwy 70.

May 14. Field Trip. Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP. Meet 7:45 am at Bank of the Rio Grande parking lot, corner of University and Telshor. Guided tour by Wynn Anderson.

May 18. "Noxious Weeds of New Mexico," Rich LaCasse, rangeland improvement specialist of the BLM, Las Cruces.

June 8. "Trees & Tree Care in the Las Cruces Area," Oscar Mestas, Texas Forest Service, El Paso.

June 11. Field Trip. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Meet 7:00 am at K-Mart parking lot on Hwy. 70. Led by Justin Van Zee, CDNP volunteer.

Otero

April 23. Annual Plant Sale, Garden Center, Oregon and 10th Streets in Alamogordo, 8 am to 2 pm. Also books, posters, flower pots, cookbooks. For more info, call Helgi Osterreich, 585-3315.

April 30. 11th Annual Community Earth Day Fair, 10 am to 4 pm. Alamogordo Park and Zoo.

May 21. Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range. Participants must pre-register. Contact John Stockert, 585-2546, or jwstockert@msn.com by April 30.

June 11. Local Gardens Tour. Private desert, foothills, and mountain gardens. Meet at La Luz Elementary School parking lot, 8 am. Bring lunch; beverages provided. For more info, contact Len Hendzel, 434-6261.

San Juan (Farmington)

Third Thursdays, 7 PM, San Juan College

April 14. "Native Brassicaceae of the Four Corners," Dr. Steve O'Kane.

May 19. "Native Plantings," speaker TBA.

May 21. Field Trip. Crownpoint area, led by Arnold Clifford.

Santa Fe

Programs 7:00 PM, College of Santa Fe, Thaw Art History Center, Room 509.

April 20. "Turning the Leaves," Teralene Foxx: author (*The Forest and the Fire*), ecologist and artist.

Taos

April 3. Field Trip. Pasque Flower Walk on Cebolla Mesa Trail. Meet at El Prado PO at 8 am.

May 15. Field Trip. La Vista Verde - The Desert in Bloom. Meet At Ranchos P.O. at 8:00 am to car pool.

May 17. Buying Trip. Santa Ana Nursery. Meet at 8 am. at the Ranchos de Taos PO 2 hr. drive. 20% discount. Check their website at www.santaana.org.

June 4. NPS Native Plant Sale at the Taos Farmer's Market. 8 am to 11 am. Close to 1,000 native plants.

June 10 & 11. UNM Workshop. "Native Medicinal Herbs," Charles Martin, instructor. Travel to NMSU Agricultural Center in Alcalde to see demo gardens.

Cont'd next page

Activities & Events Cont'd

June 12. Field Trip. Yerba Canyon- Mountain Flowers. Meet at El Prado Post Office at 8:00 am.

June 21. Members' "Gardens in Progress" Tour. Leader: Ann Smith. Meeting site TBA.

Field Trips: bring water, hat, sunscreen, boots and a snack or lunch. Trips may be cancelled or modified.

Confirming emails to come, or contact Betsy Robertson at bsrob4@msn.com or 505.751.9592.

Earthworks Grant

In 2004, a grant from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico went to support native plant landscaping in Earthworks, the environmental education component and outdoor classroom of the Santa Fe Children's Museum. A private, not-for-profit organization, the Santa Fe Children's Museum (SFCM) specializes in informal education through discovering the joys of learning, play, and community.

Earthworks was created in 1992 with the restoration of an abandoned, one-acre plot of land adjacent to the museum, and provides outdoor space for children to experience an inquiry-based education in the natural sciences. Motivated by the lack of regional environmental literacy among New Mexican youth, Earthworks champions the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to learn about and connect with their natural surroundings.

Earthworks' plans for the 2005 growing season include further reducing the water needs of the grant-sponsored native plant area of the garden, and continuing to develop and present their educational programming.



"Congratulate me! I just invented fire *and* pollution!"

Botanical Illustrating Weekend Field Courses

This spring, the Mojave National Preserve's Artist-in-the-Park, Donald Davidson, will teach botanical illustration of native desert flora at the scenic Desert Study Center in Carlsbad. These two-day extension courses are presented by California State University, San Bernardino and the University of California, Riverside, and can be taken for credit or non-credit. Native plant enthusiasts and artists alike are encouraged to sign up.

For details or to register for the **March 11-13 class (ART X454.5)**, contact **Linda Coco** at **951-827-5804** or email her at sciences@ucx.ucr.edu. For the **April 15-17 class (BIOL 1509)**, contact **Sandra Richards** at **909-880-5979** or email cel@CSUSB.edu. Modest, historic accommodations at the Desert Study Center are included in the class fee.

Workshop Interest Survey

The NPSNM Workshop Committee is planning a photography workshop and would like to assess interests by responses to the following:

1. Which medium do you generally work with?
 - a) Prints
 - b) Slides
 - c) Digital
2. What areas would you like to see emphasized?
 - a) Telephoto/scenery
 - b) Garden photography
 - c) Basics of plant photography
 - d) Photographing wild plants
 - e) Macro/close-up
 - f) Flash/lighting
 - g) Scanning digital management
 - h) Films/processing

List other topics of emphasis. Comments would be appreciated. Send to: gjercinovic@earthlink.net
Re: Photoworkshop

NPSNM Workshop Committee

presents

DESERT FERNS 101

Leaders: Gene Jercinovic and Dale Zimmerman

Location: Western New Mexico University
Silver City, NM

Date: Late May

Duration: 1 day, Limit: 20

Cost: \$25

For details contact: Gene Jercinovic

gjercinovic@earthlink.net

BOOK REVIEWS

Trespass Against Us: Dow Chemical & The Toxic Century

Jack Doyle, Common Courage Press.
Monroe ME © 2004
486 pages, \$24.95

Jack Doyle presents a detailed history of Dow Chemical, the giant chemical manufacturer that has prospered for over a century. Dow Chemical was begun by Herbert Dow. He arrived in Midland, Minnesota, for a second try at success after his first business failed in Ohio.

From these inauspicious beginnings, Doyle takes the reader on a journey showing how Dow evolved to the giant it has become, pervading our culture and existence, and contaminating our bodies with its many products designed to "improve the quality of life."

Pesticides, plastics, solvents and more each had its own history and controversy. Doyle writes of chemicals, products, marketing, and the cost to human health and the environment.

The author's superior research and his inclusion of personal accounts, anecdotes, communications, and hard scientific facts provide a strong testimony to the dirty deeds and the chemical disasters involving Dow: from its "accident" at Bhopal by its Union Carbide company to Agent Orange, from napalm to plutonium, and from dioxin to greenwashing.

This account is well-researched and beautifully written. Its message is vital: the benefits of the precautionary principle are essential. As regulation does not currently include such a measure to protect public health and our environment, it is crucial to watch the corporate role in chemical manufacturing.

Reviewed by Meghan Taylor and reprinted from *Pesticides and You*, Newsletter of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides. Vol. 24, No 3, 2004.

Central New Mexico Gardens Native Plant Society of New Mexico, 2005 \$12.95



This is the third booklet in a series designed to cover the native flora of the major regions of the State. The first two books are *Chihuahuan Desert Gardens* and *Southern Rocky Mountain Gardens*.

Central New Mexico Gardens features 14 trees, 23 shrubs, 3 vines, 11 cacti and succulents, 9 grasses, and 32 wildflowers. Each plant is accompanied by a color photo, a guide to water needs, and suggestions on how to use it effectively in the garden.

The primary authors, Carolyn Dodson and Peggy Wells, consulted numerous experts in the area. Landscape Architect David Cristiani, drawing on his extensive experience in the area, mapped out four gardening zones based on temperature and rainfall. Sally Wasowski converted David's map into artwork for the back cover. The cover photo is by Charles Mann, and the book was designed by Melissa Haye-Cserhat of CMYK, Taos.

Central New Mexico Gardens is being distributed to bookstores, nurseries, and State Parks in and near Albuquerque. If you live elsewhere, order from Lisa Johnston at npsnmbooks@hotmail.com. Other chapters wishing to sell the booklet should contact Carolyn Dodson at cdodson@unm.edu.

STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a separate form for each attendee. Send form(s) and check to:
Albuquerque NPS, P.O. Box 30282, Albuquerque NM 87190

Name (Please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I plan to arrive Thursday, Aug 10 () Friday, Aug 11 () Saturday, Aug 12 ()
-I will attend Thursday, August 10 Afternoon NPSNM Board Meeting Yes () No ()

Workshop/Field trip Choices (see insert, pages 7-10, or website <http://npsnm.unm.edu/> for details) Indicate 1st and 2nd choices

Friday, Aug 11 — Workshops 1:00—2:30 PM 1 () 2 () 3 ()
Friday, Aug 11 — Workshops 3:00—4:30 PM 4 () 5 ()
Saturday, Aug 12 — Field Trips A () B () C () D () E ()
Sunday, Aug 13 — Field Trips F () G () H () J () K ()

REGISTRATION \$55.00/Non-Members \$70.00

Late Registration (after July 15) \$65.00/Non-Members \$80.00

Registration fee includes Thursday reception, Friday lunch and Saturday banquet

Total submitted \$ _____

Cancellation policy: \$50 refund if cancelled by July 15.

For questions, contact Beth Herschman 505-892-2230 or Herschman9@aol.com

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