

# Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## *NEWSLETTER*

April, May, June 2006 Volume XXXI Number 2

### NPSNM Grants Program News

The NPSNM spends a substantial amount each year on grants for projects that further the cause of native plants. At its January 2006 meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed this year's proposals and awarded a total of \$7,500 to five herbaria and nine other proposals. Grants went to regional herbaria at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Western New Mexico University, University of Texas at El Paso, and San Juan College.

Other competitive grants awarded this year went to the New Mexico Boys & Girls Ranch Foundation for a horticulture course, the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park for K-12 education activity, Rockhound State Park for native plant education, Gila Conservation Education Center for an educational plant traveling trunk, Santa Fe Botanical Garden for a wetland lab, Pajarito Environmental Education Center for an herbarium cabinet, Joanna Redfern for a study on phytogeography of ocotillo, East

**Don't miss the 2006 NPSNM  
State Meeting!**

+++++

Full details on pages 7-10  
Registration form on page 16

Mountain High School for a San Pedro watershed watch, and William Norris for the Gila Natural History Symposium.

### *Report from a 2005 grant*

A 2005 NPSNM grant and a lot of volunteer labor have aided the development of a fully accessible demonstration garden at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park near Las Cruces. The garden will serve visitors who do not have the time or the physical ability to take the entire 1.2-mile Desert Discovery Trail.

The Chihuahuan Desert Experience Demonstration Garden will feature a series of short pathways that lead visitors to hands-on displays and signs highlighting the archaeology, geology, soil, plants, and animals of the desert. The NPSNM grant partially funded the xeriscape demonstration garden. More than 90 plants of 35 different species were purchased and planted in 2005. Identification signs are on order.

The volunteer workers spread 160,000 pounds of crusher fines (80 tons!) along the trails to create a hard-packed surface that is passable by wheelchairs and strollers. They also built a large shade structure. The Demonstration Garden is scheduled for completion later this year.

### **INSIDE**

- Conservation Corner...2
- Sivinski Employee of Year...2
- Remembering Judith Muncief...4
- Ask A Biologist...4
- NPSNM joins Valles Caldera Coalition...5
- Glasses in the Grass...6
- State Meeting Schedule...7-10
- Chapter Activities and Events...13-14
- Prickly-Poppy Watering Results...15
- Earth Day Art Show Planned...15
- State Meeting Registration Form...16

## Conservation Corner

By Jim Nellessen

# Plant Salvage, Rescue, and Conservation Project: US Highway 62/180

Sandra Lynn recently informed our membership about a plant salvage and rescue operation our society is planning to conduct along US Highway 62/180. This stretch of highway from Carlsbad to the Texas state line will be expanded from two lanes to four starting in about January or February, 2007. The plan is to rescue some of the cacti and yuccas (mostly Torrey yuccas). At the time of that article we did not know about the status of a grant we had applied for from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (under their Native Plant Conservation Initiative).

Well, the good news is in: we were awarded a big chunk of what we requested: a total of \$10,000 towards implementing this project.

The project is a definite 'go' now that we have funding to cover some of our costs of manual labor, supplies, equipment rental, and travel. In addition to numerous cacti, Torrey yucca (*Yucca torreyi*) will be a focus. I estimate there may be between 20 and 30 specimens of these we can save. These are more easily transplantable than the soaptree yucca (*Y. elata*), which is much more common along this corridor. Other plants we plan to rescue include banana yucca (*Y. baccata*), sotol (*Dasylyrion* sp.), some agave (*Agave* sp.), and some ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*). Among the cacti, we will mostly focus on species other than the prickly pears (*Opuntia* spp.), but we will certainly include some of them as well.

The rescued plants will be divided among three primary destinations: 1) into the highway corridor in certain locations recommended by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 2) to parks and gardens in the region that are interested and willing to take plants (e.g., state parks such as Living Desert State Park, and small community parks as well); and, 3) to be retained by the NPSNM for plant sales.

We will need lots of people to help with this project and will be recruiting help over the next few months, so drum this up in your local chapters! We suppose that much help will come from the southern half of the state but will gladly

accept help from anywhere. Most of the work will probably happen on weekends, mostly in late summer 2006 and into the fall and winter.

By no means does this mean a free-for-all to rescue plants. In other words, if you just happen to be passing through the area, the "hey, they are going to be rebuilding this road, so let me stop and dig a few plants" approach will not be appropriate. This project will be conducted in an orderly and organized manner. Permits and liability releases from the New Mexico State Highway Department (NMDOT) are required.

Please stay tuned for NPSNM detailed timelines. NMDOT and BLM are cooperating partners in this project, and we must take their concerns into consideration and be cooperative. Any persons going out "on their own" before approved timelines without permits could potentially get themselves in big trouble, hurt the reputation of the NPSNM, and jeopardize the entire operation.

## ***Sivinski Employee of the Year***

Bob Sivinski has received the State Forester's Award for 2005 – a distinction given to the employee of the year for the State Forestry Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, according to a February story in the *New Mexican* newspaper.

Sivinski is a botanist and endangered plant specialist, as well as a past president of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (and last year's banquet speaker at the annual state meeting). Sivinski's accomplishments last year included procuring property to preserve endangered plants and working with outside groups such as The Nature Conservancy and Natural Heritage New Mexico. Sivinski was also praised by his colleagues as a "prime example of dedication."

**Don't miss  
Petey Mesquity at the 2006 State Meeting  
in August in El Paso, Texas!**

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, Renée West at:

*keywestern@hotmail.com* OR:

*1105 Ocotillo Canyon Dr., Carlsbad NM 88220*

**Next Deadline is June 1, 2006**

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 cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

**Proofreaders:** Jane Mygatt, Donna Stevens, Steve West, and Sandra Lynn.

**Mailing:** Carolyn Gressitt.

**Web site:** <http://npsnm.unm.edu/>



*Wholesale/Retail  
Quality  
Hardy Cacti  
of the Southwest*

505-835-0687  
2188 NM Hwy 1  
Socorro, NM 87801

Visit our website at:  
[www.riogrande-cacti.com](http://www.riogrande-cacti.com)

**NPSNM Membership Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter*

- Albuquerque**
- El Paso, TX**
- Gila (Silver City)**
- Las Cruces**
- Otero**
- Sacramento Mts (Ruidoso)**
- San Juan (Farmington)**
- Santa Fe**
- 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  
NPSNM  
and send to*

**Membership Secretary  
P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**



## Remembering Judith Muncrief

The Gila Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico lost one of our most distinguished members on Christmas Day 2005. Judith Muncrief lost her battle with cancer, but not without a fight. Just as she worked so hard for any cause she felt was just, she challenged the cancer that finally took her life.

During her personal suffering she never gave up serving the NPS in the protection of native plants, or volunteering for the Medication Assistance Program, or participating in political causes for the good of those overlooked by the political system.

Judy was a thoughtful, intelligent, and well-read person. Although quiet and reserved, when she spoke we listened, because we recognized her ability to synthesize ideas, think through the issue, and present a possible solution to the problem. When she became editor of the Gila chapter *BULLETIN* and our local website, we knew these tasks were in good hands, and she never let us down.

Judy was not a field botanist, but because she was anxious to learn she was an active participant on field trips. More importantly, she read widely among those authors who made the connections between plants, the need for conservation of natural resources, and the protection of Planet Earth. All living systems were important to Judy.

Losing Judith Muncrief has created an abyss in the Gila Chapter that will be difficult to fill.

—Jack and Martha Carter

## Ask A Biologist

By Tom Wootten

Arizona State University has developed a web site that is fun, educational for all ages, and has some very exciting projects underway, exciting both from a recreational and potential scientific point of view.

“Ask A Biologist” was first developed as a tool to interest young people in the out of doors. In simplistic terms the web site <http://askabiologist.asu.edu> offers to answer questions posed by an interested person, with the questions answered by an anonymous professor from ASU. While aimed initially at youngsters, of course the program is open to any interested party. Questions are posed by email, received at a central dispatch station, forwarded to a volunteer professor, answered, and returned to the asker through the dispatch station. I suppose a direct dialogue with the responding professor could be requested, but this is not necessarily encouraged.

Inquiries are screened and attempts are made not to provide a substitute for a homework assignment, but certainly to provide a reference for specific questions. Added fun is found in the games section, provided for entertainment with an undercurrent of educational material.

One of the very exciting projects now under way, with cooperation from Arizona Audubon Society, is with bird calls. After opening to the “Ask a Biologist” web site, click on “Experiments and Stuff” then on “New Birds and Their Calls.” You will then be invited to listen to the calls of 180 bird species, along with supplemental information such as range, a brief description, a picture of the bird and a sonogram of its call. This project is quite an undertaking. The number of bird species is being expanded but top-notch quality is required.

An offshoot of this program is the development of software so that the whole range of information can be downloaded onto a Palm Pilot or an MP 3 player. Personally, I have to learn how to use the latter. This vehicle for delivery was specifically chosen with young people in mind, as all seem to understand and can operate these players, but there

(Continued on page 11)

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

**President Wynn Anderson** 915-533-6072  
wanderson@elp.rr.com

**Vice-President Chick Keller** 662-7915  
alfanso@cybermesa.com

**Recording Secretary Sandra Lynn** 234-1772  
sdlynn@zianet.com

**Membership Secretary John Freyermuth** 523-8413  
jfreyerm@lib.nmsu.edu

**Treasurer Donna Stevens** 388-5296  
donnastevens@zianet.com

### At-Large Directors:

**Albuquerque** Philip Melnick philm@pmelnick.com 345-9877

**El Paso** Jack Makepeace jackm26551@aol.com 915-585-2149

**Gila** Janet Lydia Gilchrist jlgnm@yahoo.com 388-7832

**Las Cruces** Alan Krueger abkrueg@earthlink.net 532-1036

**Otero** Chris Baker ravensnest@direcway.com 434-9291

**Sacramento Mts** Dave Lincoln lincolndk@hotmail.com 258-2143

**San Juan** Les Lundquist lslundquist89@students.sanjuacollege.edu  
326-7194

**Santa Fe** Tom Antonio tantonio@csf.edu 473-6465

**Taos** Judy Lister glister@newmex.com 776-1183

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

**Albuquerque** Beth Herschman herschman9@aol.com 892-2230  
or 892-8751

**El Paso** Kathy Reynolds agustusmc@sbcglobal.net 915-592-1705

**Gila** Donna Stevens donnastevens@zianet.com 388-5296

**Las Cruces** Al Krueger abkrueg@earthlink.net 532-1036

**Otero** Helgi Osterreich hkasak@netmdc.com 585-3315

**Sacramento** Dave Lincoln lincolndk@hotmail.com 258-2143

**San Juan** Les Lundquist lslundquist89@students.sanjuacollege.edu  
326-7194

**Santa Fe** Thomas Antonio tantonio@csf.edu 473-6465

**Taos** Kathryn Peel HRXpert@msn.com 758-2576

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Book Sales** Lisa Johnston 748-1046 nps\_nmbooks@hotmail.com

**Poster Chair** Gary Runyan 242-9758 gjrnyan-nps@yahoo.com

**T-Shirt Sales** Lisa Mandelkern 526-0917 lisamand@zianet.com

**Website Editor** Lolly Jones 771-8020 ljones20@comcast.net

**Newsletter Editor** Renée West 885-3636 keywestern@hotmail.com

**Conservation** Jim Nellessen 867-7905 jnellessen1@taschek.net

**Finance** Jack Carter 388-9221 jmcarter@zianet.com

\*\*all area codes are 505 unless otherwise stated.

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

## NPSNM joins Valles Caldera Coalition

At its January meeting, the NPSNM Board of Directors voted to help preserve the natural resources of the Valles Caldera by joining the Valles Caldera Coalition. The Coalition says it is a group of over "40 organizations and individuals with expertise in natural resources and a keen interest in the Valles Caldera National Preserve."

A non-profit [501(c)3] project of Audubon New Mexico, the Coalition got its start in 1997 lobbying for the federal purchase of 250-square-mile Baca Ranch, encompassing the volcanic crater at the heart of the Jemez Mountains. The Coalition stayed together as the preserve came to be, with Congress experimenting with corporate administrative structures and new types of income-generating mandates that caused concern.

The Coalition says its primary concern is "that ecosystem health must be the guiding principle in all management decisions." Its two main activities are:

--tracking how the federal government is running the Preserve, in its experimental land-management regime; and

--working hard to get useful information into the managers' hands to inform their decisions, and to get information from them out to the public.

For more information on this group we are now aligned with, see [www.vallescalderacoalition.org](http://www.vallescalderacoalition.org).

(And to check out the Valles Caldera for yourself see the presentation and field trip listed for June in the Albuquerque Chapter activities on page 13.)

## Heads Up: Habitat Workshop

It's still a year away, but planning is well underway for a May 18-19, 2007, workshop in Albuquerque called "Creating a Wildlife Habitat Garden Using Native Plants." One section is tentatively called "Designing Wildlife Habitats Using Native Plants," and another is "You Can't Have One Without the Other - Interactions between Native Plants and Animals, including Pollinators."

Virginia Burris is putting together a slate of exciting speakers and topics. Stay tuned to these pages for further information.

Memories from 2005 state meeting...

## Glasses in the Grass

By Gene Jercinovic

I remember hiking in the Manzano Mountains last summer as part of the NPSNM Annual Meeting with our vice president Chick Keller and hearing him say, "If anyone sees a hand lens, let me know." In a moment of botanical excitement, he had put it down and somehow not remembered to pick it up.

The invention of glass lenses as an aid to vision is often attributed to Roger Bacon (1214–1294). He invented (or at least vastly improved) the telescope and was the first to describe the *camera obscura*. Use of corrective eyewear did not become common for centuries, but with the invention of spectacles, Bacon unknowingly created a new problem for humankind – the possibility of losing them.

In his remarkable two-volume treatment of the early history of botany, *Landmarks of Botanical History*, controversial botanist Edward Lee Greene (1843–1915) documented what must be one of the first such losses, in his discussion of Antonius Musa Brasavolus (1500–1555), an Italian physician and herbalist from Ferrara near Bologna. In 1536 Brasavolus published his herbal opus *Examen Omnium Simplicium*, which considered plants designated to be of medicinal value by the Greek Dioscorides of the first century. The book is written as an extended conversation among an aged apothecary Senex, his helper and burden-bearer Herbarius, and the young scholar of plants Brasavolus. I quote Greene's translation of Brasavolus and Greene himself:

**Senex:** I should like now to enumerate the precious stones.

**Herbarius:** Well, what are you waiting for?

**Senex:** I can not find the place in my notebook where they are listed in order.

**Herbarius:** Put on your spectacles.

**Senex:** I lost them somewhere yesterday, I can not say where.

**Herbarius:** And did you at the same time lose your eyesight? There is the list of stones, on the left-hand page open before you.

**Senex:** I can not read without my eyes of

glass. You, Herbarius, take the booklet, and do the reading for me.

**Herbarius:** You, then, place these saddle bags and the sausages on your own shoulders.

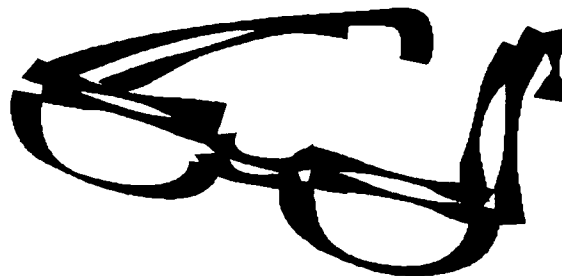
**Senex:** That burden were more suitable to an ass.

**Herbarius:** Well, here are your missing glasses. I found them in the grass and kept them for you.

**Senex:** You could not have done me more grateful service. Now I can really see and examine stones.

And this is Brasavola's [sic] manner of placing on record as something new in his day, new at Ferrara, the employment of a pair of glass lenses as aid to failing eyesight. By lines of research far enough removed for the botanical, the use of such helps has been traced to a time earlier by some decades than the period of Brasavola [sic] who wrote about these things in 1535; but without a doubt this will be the first mention in history of a man's going forth on a botanical excursion carrying with him a pair of eye glasses; and with what fine dramatic art does our author depict his venerable friend the apothecary as rising from a seated inspection of some drug plant so filled with enthusiasm as to forget for the moment everything else, and to go away leaving his spectacles lying on the grass; a thing the like of which, within the almost four centuries during which the use of magnifiers of one form or another has grown common, has happened time and time again to a thousand botanists in the field."

Thus it must be considered a traditional experience to misplace things in the field. So the next time you lose your hand lens, a grass specimen, a GPS, or even your lens cap, realize that you are walking with giants.



**2006 Annual Meeting**  
**of the**  
**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**Thursday August 10 – Sunday August 13**  
**On the Campus of**  
**The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)**

*One Desert, Two Countries, Three States*  
**Plants of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert Region**

**Thursday, August 10, 2006**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1:30—4:30 PM | NPSNM Board of Directors meeting at the Hilton Garden Hotel  |
| 4:00—7:00 PM | Registration at the Hilton Garden Hotel  |
| Evening Free | Enjoy El Paso and Juárez! Your registration packet contains information about restaurants and evening attractions in El Paso and Juárez, including the Viva! El Paso show and Wyler Tramway. |

**Meeting Site and Hotel Information**

Presentations and registration will be held at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center, UTEP Union East Building, on East University between Oregon and Hawthorne streets on the UTEP campus; this is also the drop-off for any silent auction items. The board meeting and early registration will be held at the new Hilton Garden Hotel, 111 University, one block east of the meeting site; the Hilton will offer a conference rate of \$84. (Registration for this new hotel will be available later in the spring.) The Holiday Inn at 900 Sunland Park, a short drive from the campus, will offer a \$77 rate for the conference; ask for the Native Plant Society rate or the NPS Group Code; 915-833-2900. If you wish to use other lodging, west El Paso or downtown El Paso are the closest areas; see choices at [www.visitelpaso.com](http://www.visitelpaso.com).

## Friday August 11, 2006

<b>8:00 am to noon</b>	<b>Registration at UTEP –Union Bldg EAST Wing, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>
<b>8:30 to noon</b>	<b>General Sessions at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center.</b>
8:30 AM	<i>Geographical Aspects of the Chihuahuan Desert</i> — Dr. Robert Schmidt, Emeritus Professor of Geology, UTEP
9:30—9:45 AM	<b>Break; book sale and silent auction begin</b>
9:45—10:45 AM	<i>Paleoecology of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert</i> — Dr. Cathryn A. Hoyt, Executive Director, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
11:00 AM	<i>Plant Communities in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert</i> — Rafael Corral, Ph.D, Botanist at Ft. Bliss, TX.
<b>NOON—1 PM</b>	<b>Lunch provided at the conference site.</b>
<b>1:00—4:30 PM</b>	<b>Workshops/Small Seminars</b>
Track One	Conservation/Education
Track Two	Plant Uses
Track Three	Botany
<b>1:00—2:00 PM</b>	
Track One	<i>Panel on Regional Conservation Issues</i> — Tom Wooten, President, T&E Inc, a private foundation working to conserve native flora and fauna - moderator
Track Two	<i>Medicinal Uses of Selected Chihuahuan Desert Plants</i> — Dr. Armando González Stuart, UTEP/UT-Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program, UTEP
Track Three	<i>Chihuahuan Desert Grassland: The Richest and Most Luxuriant Grasses Known to this Continent</i> - Dr. Kelly W. Allred, Professor, New Mexico State University (NMSU)
<b>2:15—3:15 PM</b>	
Track One	<i>Panel on Binational Conservation Efforts</i> — Jennifer Montoya, Project Director, Chihuahuan Desert Program, WWF, Las Cruces, moderator
Track Two	<i>Landscaping with Chihuahuan Desert Plants</i> — David Cristiani, landscape architect, Albuquerque
Track Three	<i>Flora of the Franklin Mountains</i> — Dr. Richard Worthington, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, UTEP
<b>3:30—4:30 PM</b>	
Track One	<i>Conservation and Local Land Trusts</i> — Maria Trunk, President, The Frontera Land Alliance
Track Two	<i>Creating Habitat for Desert Wildlife</i> — Scott Cutler, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, UTEP Centennial Museum, and Lois Balin, Nongame and Urban Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Track Three	<i>Ferns of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert</i> — Patrick Alexander, botanist in graduate studies, NMSU
<b>4:30—5:15 PM</b>	<b>Book Sale, Silent Auction remain open</b>
<b>5:15— 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Reception at Chihuahuan Desert Gardens &amp; Centennial Museum</b>

**Evening Free;** see your registration packet for information about restaurants and other evening attractions in El Paso and Juárez.



## Saturday August 12, 2006

### Field Trips

*All field trips will meet at UTEP near the Centennial Museum (map in your registration packet). Bring water, a hat/sunglasses, sunscreen; please wear sturdy shoes. Admissions free unless otherwise specified.*

#### **08:00—12:00: Field Trip A: Botanic Gardens.**

Explore the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens (CDG), at UTEP, and the El Paso Botanical Garden at Keystone Heritage Park. The CDG has the world's largest collection of native Chihuahuan plants, displaying over 600 species on the grounds of the UTEP Centennial Museum. The newly opened Botanical Garden features native and desert-adapted plants, within a new natural history park containing a natural marsh and one of the oldest known pre-Columbian villages in the United States. *UTEP's CDG, no fee; El Paso Botanical Garden, Admission \$2.00*

#### **08:00—12:00: Field Trip B: Dinosaur Tracks.**

Travel to Mount Cristo Rey at the juncture of 3 states and 2 nations, crowned by the massive Urbici Solar sculpture of Christ. Here you'll view dinosaur tracks along an ancient fossilized river bed; the Cretaceous limestone on the dry flanks of the mountain harbors interesting plants. Moderate 2 hour hike. *Limit 25*

#### **07:30—12:00: Field Trip C: Rio Bosque Wetlands.**

Follow the Texas Mission Trail for an easy hike at Rio Bosque Park, a large riparian area and prime bird habitat in reclaimed Rio Grande wetlands and screwbean mesquite bosques. For birders the Audubon Society's Featherlake wetland sanctuary is nearby; nonbirders can visit one of the Missions of Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizaro.

#### **08:00—12:00: Field Trip D: Cottonwood Springs.**

Hike into the Franklin Mountains State Park to discover a surprising desert oasis. A small seep sustains scattered cottonwood trees and other riparian vegetation among upland canyon scrub and wildflowers. *Park entrance fee \$4. Moderate to strenuous 3 hr. hike. Limit 25*

#### **07:30—12:00: Field Trip E: Hueco Tanks.**

A Hueco Tanks ranger will guide us through this unique mass of weathered seyenite outcrops and boulders hiding rain fed pools, shelter for desert travelers since Archaic times. This world famous rock climbing site contains significant rock art, a Butterfield stage stop and some of the most interesting plants in the region. *Park entrance fee \$4. Easy to moderate 3 hr. hike. Limit 25*

#### **08:00—12:00: Field Trip F: El Paso Garden Tour:**

A car caravan tour of various residential gardens that feature native and adapted plants.

### *Participants lunch on their own*

**1:15—4:45 PM**

**1:15—2:15 PM**

Track One

Track Two

Track Three

**2:30—3:30 PM**

Track One

Track Two

Track Three

#### **Workshops/Seminars**

*Desert Wildlands of Southern New Mexico* — Greg McGee, author and former inventory coordinator, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

*Transforming your Boring Conventional Yard with More Ideas than Money: That Bermuda Grass Belongs in Africa!* — Renee West, Carlsbad Caverns National Park

*Panel on Regional Herbaria* — Dr. Timothy K. Lowery, Associate Professor, University of New Mexico, and Curator of the Herbarium

*DNA Analysis and Classical Taxonomy: Is there a Conflict?* — Dr. Ed Freeman, Professor, Biological Sciences, UTEP

*Ancient Seeds for Modern Needs: Traditional Crops of the Southwest Provide Nutrition and Gardening Success* — Kevin Dahl, Executive Director, Native Seeds SEARCH, Tucson

*Sand Scrub Communities of Deep Unconsolidated Sand of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert Region* — Rafael Corral, Ph.D, Botanist at Ft. Bliss, TX

### 3:45—4:45 PM

- Track One *Panel on National and International Plant Protection Laws and Regulations* — Bob Sivinski, Botanist, New Mexico State Forestry Division, moderator
- Track Two *Workshop On Basketry And Other Household Items Made From Native Plants* — Linda Borunda and Cheryl Garing
- Track Three *Panel on New and Innovative Ways to Teach Plant ID for Beginners* — Chick Keller, Moderator and David Witt, Taos Chapter, Dorothy Hoard, Santa Fe Chapter, and Jack Carter, Gila Chapter

Silent Auction and Book Sale begin at 1:15 and end at 3:45 when final break ends. From 4:30 – 5:30 successful bidders will pay and collect their treasures.

**Banquet:** 6—7 PM Gathering time/cash bar; 7 PM—Banquet. At Ardivino's Desert Crossing, an historic spot for travelers through southern New Mexico, landscaped with native plants. The Ardivino family's Italian origins are reflected in the excellent cooking served up at the Desert Crossing. Banquet choices are: Pork Tenderloin; Chicken Madeira, or Pasta Shells baked with Ricotta Cheese and Chives in a Marinara Sauce – please indicate your preference on the registration form.

Our banquet speaker, nurseryman and Arizona radio personality Petey Mesquitey, AKA Peter Gierlach, will entertain us with "An Evening with Petey Mesquitey."

## Sunday August 13

### 7:30—2:00 Field Trip G: Northern Chihuahuan Dune Fields.

An approximate 160 mile round trip car caravan entering Mexico at Santa Teresa to explore extensive dune fields and their sand loving plant communities, visit the margins of ancient Pleistocene Lake Cabaza de Vaca then return by way of Columbus, NM to cross the Mimbres playa and the Mesilla bolson. See the greatest variety of Chihuahuan Desert scrub and grassland communities and, rains permitting, colorful summer annuals. As the trip will not leave the frontier zone, Mexican registration and permit will not be required (insurance valid in Mexico and proof of ownership advised). Easy short hikes. *Limit 25*

### 7:30—1:00 Field Trip H: Dripping Springs, Organ Mountains

Drive by way of Las Cruces to this Nature Conservancy site for an easy to moderate hike in a beautiful canyon to a secluded year round spring in the Organ Mountains. See canyon riparian and upland woodland vegetation above desert alluvial fans and the Mesilla bolson floor. *Limit 25*

### 7:30—1:00 Field Trip I: Oro Grande, Jicarilla Mountains

These isolated desert hills between El Paso and Alamogordo host extensive populations of the unusual triploid hybrid hedgehog cacti, (*Echinocereus x*

*neomexicanus*), amid abandoned silver, lead, copper and iron mines, gold placers and ancient turquoise diggings. Moderate to strenuous 4 hr. hike. *Limit 25*

### 7:30—12:00 Field Trip J: Bishop's Cap

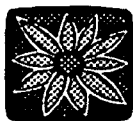
The distinctive profile of Bishop's Cap near Las Cruces marks a mass of extraordinary fossiliferous limestone hills with fluorite mines, Conklin's Cave and abundant cacti including large clumps of strawberry cactus (*Echinocereus stramineus*), which may still have ripe fruit for tasting, plus Agave, Yucca, Sotol, Ocotillo and many cactus species. Moderate to strenuous 3 hr. hike. *Limit 25*

### 7:30—12:00 Field Trip K: Kilbourne Hole

Drive west onto the Mesilla Bolson to examine desert scrub communities, an abandoned "plantation" where Guayule (*Parthenium argentatum*) was grown for rubber production, visit massive isolated craters formed by volcanic steam eruptions 15,000 to 20,000 years ago and maybe spot ejected basalt bombs containing the gemstone peridot. Car caravan and easy to moderate hikes. *Limit 25*

### 7:30—12:00 Field Trip L: Repeat of Field Trip E: Hueco Tanks State Park.

### 8:00—12:00 Field Trip M: Repeat of Field Trip F: El Paso Garden Tours

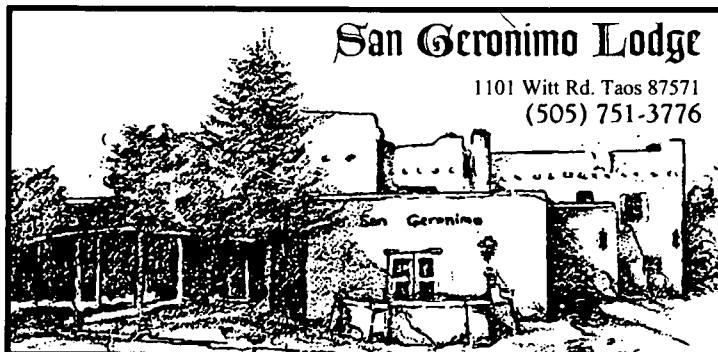


*Enchanted*  
**GARDENS** LLC

**For the Finest Garden Products**

Native flowers 413 W. Griggs Ave  
Native trees & shrubs Las Cruces NM 88005  
Herbs & perennials 505-524-1886  
The LC nature store Tues-Sat 10 am to 6 pm

*The Place for Avid Gardeners to Meet!*



## San Geronimo Lodge

1101 Witt Rd. Taos 87571  
(505) 751-3776



**AGUA FRIA NURSERY**  
Specializing in Native Plants

1409 Agua Fria  
Santa Fe 87505-0907  
505-983-4831  
FAX 505-983-3593  
aguafrianr@aol.com

  
SANTA ANA  
**GARDEN CENTER**  
**NATIVE PLANTS**

**Retail**

157 Jemez Dam Rd.  
Bernalillo NM 87004  
(505) 867-1322

**Wholesale**

2 Dove Rd.  
Bernalillo NM 87004  
(505) 867-1323

Locally grown perennials,  
shrubs, trees, and  
seasonal vegetables

(Continued from page 4)

## Ask A Biologist

will be plenty of reasons for us seniors to learn, too. I have seen a prototype under development where the basic data have been downloaded onto the player. Software is being developed that will then permit users to preprogram the specific calls they want to study, or for selected birds for a given geographic area.

I am not a scientist, but a personal use that would aid me would occur in a case like the following. My Audubon Chapter or my organization has adopted a specific area where it is important to determine utilization by birds over differing seasons. This will require repeated monitoring. Suppose the area is heavily wooded, but a well trained "birding by ear" professional is not available to monitor each and every time needed. Suppose I am a reasonably good birder by sight and know some but not all birds by call. While monitoring the area, I can use a preprogrammed recording of bird calls for bird species known to frequent, or likely to frequent the area during the specified season. Such a program could prove quite valuable in identifying a bird that I could hear but not see.


There are many possible scenarios for using this type of data. I only mention one that occurs to me.

The software for this type of program is under development at "Ask A Biologist." When the bugs have been worked out of the existing programs, there is a plan to sell the software for a nominal amount (proceeds to go to further "Ask A Biologist" or to ASU).

This whole concept behind "Ask A Biologist" is quite exciting to me, and I applaud Arizona State University for sponsoring a very useful, enjoyable, educational program.

I sometimes wonder if flowers pity us  
because we do not get to bring bees  
(or the wind) into our lovemaking.

—Derrick Jensen  
in *Welcome to the Machine*




**WaterWise  
Landscapes, Inc.**

---

Drought Tolerant Perennials, Herbs, and Natives  
Design, Installation, and Maintenance

*J. Hunter Ten Broeck* Albuquerque, N.M. 87107  
505-344-7508



**The Best Selection of  
Organic & Gourmet Foods in Taos**  
*Serving our community since 1986*

623 Paseo del Pueblo Norte \* 758-1148

**MOUNTAIN STATES WHOLESALE NURSERY**  
*Serving New Mexico Since 1969*

We specialize in:

- New Plant Introductions
- Native Plants
- Contract-growing
- Deliveries throughout New Mexico



P.O. Box 2500  
Litchfield Park, AZ  
800.840.8509 • 623.247.8509  
[www.mswm.com](http://www.mswm.com)




**PLANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST**

Native Plants & Seeds

Wildflowers  
Drought Tolerant Grasses  
Shrubs & Trees  
Open-pollinated Vegetables & Chiles  
Great Book Selection  
Color Catalog

Albuquerque  
6680 4th Street, NW  
505-344-8830

Santa Fe  
3095 Agua Fria  
505-438-8888



*Blue grama grass*

[www.plantsofthesouthwest.com](http://www.plantsofthesouthwest.com)



**Blossoms  
GARDEN CENTER**

Native & Xeric Plants & Grasses  
*to help you meet the challenges of  
High Desert Gardening*

**758-1330**  
Ranchos de Taos, N.M.


**BERNARDO BEACH**  
native and climate-adapted plants  
for beautiful easy care gardens  
that attract songbirds,  
hummingbirds, and butterflies

from our backyard to yours

3729 Arno Street NE  
in Albuquerque

open daily March through October  
winter hours by appointment

345-6248



*Check out the new  
NPSNM Plant Resources  
webpage:*

<http://npsnm.unm.edu/links.html>

## Chapter Activities & Events

### Albuquerque

Meetings are first Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Piñon Room at Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd. (between Eubank & Wyoming).

April 6—"Preventing Garden Predation with Native Plants, and other gardening questions" with Forum of Master Gardeners.

April 22—Field trip to the Malpais with Bill Dodson. Brief stops at Sandstone Bluff Overlook and Natural Arch, hike along the Narrows Trail, lunch among wildflowers and ponderosa pines with views of the extensive lava flow. If time permits, we will take a short hike at Lava Falls.

April 28—Set up for Spring Garden Center Plant Sale, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Volunteers get first pick of plants at 3 pm Friday.

April 29—NPS Plant Sale in Patio Room and on the patio. Sign up to help: contact Laura White, 243-5069, or Laura@unm.edu, or Beth Herschman, 892-2230, or Herschman9@aol.com.

May 4—"Character Development of a Tree-Hugger" by Laura White. Laura discusses preparing her 40 acres against fire and drought. Science Fair awards presentation.

May TBA—Field trip to Rio Grande Cacti in Socorro.

June 1—"The Valles Caldera" by Carolyn Dodson. Carolyn will share knowledge and many lovely pictures from previous field trips in preparation for June 25 field trip.

June 25—Valles Caldera hike with Bill Dodson. Hike along the Coyote Call Trail through meadows and woods, stopping for wildflowers and views of the caldera.

### El Paso

All programs are second Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Centennial Museum, UTEP campus.

April 13—Overview of the FloraFest Plant Sale by Wynn Anderson, Botanical Curator of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP and President of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

April 28-30—FloraFest and Native Plant Sale on

UTEP campus. Friday night through Sunday.

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are at 7 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall, usually the third Friday of the month, except this April.

April 14—"Trees and Their Proper Care, From Proper Planting to Pruning: How to Keep Your Trees Healthy" by Elroy Limmer, Gila Native Plant Society member and certified arborist. Note: second Friday of April.

April 22—Native Plant Sale at Penny Park, the community-built park, 10 am to 3 pm.

April 30—Pine Tree Trail hike at Aguirre Springs, Las Cruces.

May 21—Black Hawk Canyon hike, near Saddle Rock.

June 18—Caves Trail #803 hike, off Rocky Canyon.

### Las Cruces

Talks are second Wednesday of the month in Social Center Conference Room at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vista Circle. Walks are on Saturdays.

April 12—"What You Give, What You Get, and What Is Expected Afterwards" on the Master Gardener program, by Master Gardener Mike Hughes, an Englishman from Connecticut.

April 15—Peña Blanca area of the Organ Mountains to see it in spring with Carolyn Gressitt, Tom Packard, and John Freyermuth. We will return to view fall in this same area Sept. 16. Meet at Ramada parking lot, corner of Valley and University Ave. at 9 am.

April 29—Greg Magee will lead us along a roadway to the riparian area of Percha Box, described in his book *Day Hikes and Nature Walks in the Las Cruces-El Paso Area*. Meet at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy. 80 at 8 am.

May 10—"Moths and Butterflies: Pollinators Extraordinaire" by Eric Metzler, entomologist from the Otero Chapter. \*\*This is also the sign-up deadline for the June 17 field trip to Salinas Peak on the White Sands Missile Range. WSMR personnel will need some personal information: SS #s, dates of birth, and citizenship.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

## Activities & Events

May 13—Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park early bird walk with Justin Van Zee to see plants along Desert Discovery Trail and discuss their ecological significance. Easy walk. Meet at the park at 7:30 am and finish by 9 am. CDNP is on Jornada Road, 6.4 miles north of Hwy. 70.

May 13—Walk to 'A' Mountain with Carolyn Gressitt to look for haystack cacti (*Echinocereus stramineus*) in bloom, along with other interesting flora on this location close to Las Cruces. Meet at parking lot east of Bank of the Rio Grande on Telshor on north side of University Ave. at 10 am.

June 14—"White Sands Pupfish Habitat" by Dr. David Anderson, WSMR land manager.

June 17—All-day trip to White Sands Missile Range. A mostly driving trip to the area of Salinas Peak and Malpais Springs, home to WS pupfish. Participants must sign up by May 10 (see May 10). Meet at K-Mart parking lot on Hwy. 70 at 7 am.

July 12—"Ocotillo: the Ultimate Plastic Plant" by Keith Killingbeck, visiting professor of biological science from University of Rhode Island and currently working with NMSU Biology Dept.

July 15—Summer drive by car through the desert with Lisa Mandelkern, to observe several easily accessible and interesting areas around Las Cruces. (4-wheel-drive not needed). Meet at K-Mart parking lot on Hwy. 70 at 10 am.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

April 1—Otero Chapter meeting and pot luck at Oliver Lee State Park at 1 pm. For information, call Len Hendzel, 434-6261.

April 22—Annual Plant Sale at Alamogordo Garden Center from 8 am to 1 pm. To help, contact Art Baker 434-9291, or ravensnest@direcway.com.

April 29—Earth Day, 10 am to 4 pm. If you can help, call Helgi Osterreich, 585-3315, or hkasak@netmdc.com.

May 5-6—Rattlesnake Springs in Carlsbad Caverns National Park (Living Desert State Park for those who want to go early to Carlsbad on Friday the 5th). Overnighter. Renée West, leader; Len Hendzel, organizer. For information, call Len, 434-6261.

May 13—White Sands Missile Range trip. Dave Anderson leader, John Stockert organizer. For information, call John 585-2546, or jwstockert@msn.com.

June 10—"Butterflies and Moths" presentation, field trip with Eric Metzler, leader. Details TBA. For information, contact Helgi Osterreich, 585-3315, or hkasak@netmdc.com

### San Juan (Farmington)

Meetings every third Thursday at 7 pm.

April 20—Native uses of the plants around Aztec Ruins area—meeting at the Aztec Ruins.

May 18—Speaker to be announced. Regular meeting at San Juan College.

May TBA—Field trip on the weekend towards the middle of May with the Southwestern Colorado Native Plant Society around the Four Corners area.

Memorial Day weekend—River Fest at Berg Park. San Juan Chapter will have a booth and plant sale to promote the NPSNM. It should be fun!

June 15—Meeting at San Juan College.

June field trips—To be announced.

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Dr., at Luke Hall, Room 303.

April 19—"Caught in a Web of Words: New Mexico Botany in the Genitive" by Dr. Kelly Allred, professor of Range Plant Taxonomy in the Animal and Range Sciences Department at New Mexico State University. Allred is 'Mr. New Mexico Grasses' – a living state treasure. He knows more about NM grasses than anyone.

May 17—To be announced.

### Taos

Meetings are Wednesdays at 7 pm at the San Geronimo Lodge.

April 12—"Water Conserving Permaculture & Composting in Your Landscape: Techniques You Never Dreamed Of!" by Jim Brooks, Soilutions, Tijeras, NM.

April 13—Demonstration field trip, 9 am.

May 10—To be announced.

June 14—"Creating Butterfly and Bird Habitats in Your Garden" by Judith Phillips, author and owner of Bernardo Beach Native Plant Nursery.

## Endangered Sacramento Prickly-Poppy Watering Results

By Linda M. Barker  
Forest Botanist, Lincoln National Forest

About a year ago, we shared information about the endangered Sacramento prickly-poppy (*Argemone pleiakantha* ssp. *pinnatisecta*) and the experimental watering of seedlings being carried out by the Otero Chapter of the NPSNM. It's time to provide a follow-up on the results.

You may remember that the Sacramento prickly-poppy grows only on the west face of the Sacramento Mountains near Alamogordo. When surveys were first conducted in the late 1980s, some 1,300 plants were found in seven canyons. As of the summer of 2004, the subspecies had shrunk to only 460 plants. Monitoring of a flush of 210 seedlings found in March of 2001 in Alamo Canyon showed essentially 100 percent mortality by July. Because soil moisture is a limiting factor for seedling establishment, the prickly-poppy working group recommended watering of a new flush of seedlings first found in November 2004.

The Otero Chapter board agreed to take on a

watering experiment on seedlings growing near the mouth of Alamo Canyon. Four plots were established, two where seedlings would be watered, and two nearby on like substrates where seedlings would not be watered – the control plots. Each plot had 46 to 88 seedlings. Water was carried to the two water plots in backpack sprayers. On each visit, the seedlings were counted and their sizes were recorded.

Watering began March 4, 2005, and the faithful NPSNM members watered and recorded data regularly. As the wetter-than-usual winter of 2004-05 started to dry out in spring, the volunteers watered the seedling plots weekly until August 12. The monsoon rains started late and were weak at 4,500 feet, so the plants had a real test of their ability to survive.

Unfortunately, in spite of the valiant efforts of the NPSNM volunteers, the spring drought conditions did not favor establishment of prickly-poppy seedlings. Of the 93 seedlings first counted in the water plots, only eight remained by early July when the rains usually start. In the control plots, only 17 of the 161 seedlings counted in the spring remained. This represents 9 percent survival in the water plots and 11 percent survival in the control plots.

Surveys conducted by the Forest Service throughout Alamo Canyon later in August located 819 plants. This represents almost double the number found there a year earlier. We are hopeful that sufficient establishment and survival of seedlings has occurred to support survival of the population in this canyon. Further monitoring conducted in the plots in December showed that some of the smaller plants, likely year-old "seedlings," were putting out new green leaves. Perhaps they have established sufficient tap roots to survive our deepening drought. Time will tell.

The Lincoln National Forest and I extend our appreciation to the volunteers of the Otero Chapter for their wonderful work watering and monitoring in the continuing efforts to ensure the survival of this local endemic. This is a significant contribution to understanding the life history and conservation of a part of our unique botanical heritage.

### Earth Day Art Show Planned

In honor of Earth Day, an art show celebrating the Earth opens this month in Los Alamos. Co-sponsored by The Art Center at Fuller Lodge and Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), the juried show, "La Tierra Nuestra," focuses on art work in all media inspired by the natural history of the valleys, rivers, deserts, canyons, mesas, and mountains of northern New Mexico.

The show opens with a reception April 21 from 5-7 pm and runs through June 3. The Art Center is located at 2132 Central Avenue and is open 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday.

And while you're in Los Alamos, visit the Chamber of Commerce on Central Avenue to get a schedule of other Earth Day activities planned by PEEC in conjunction with many other community organizations and individuals. You can also check the PEEC website: [www.pajaritoeec.org](http://www.pajaritoeec.org). Click on the link for Earth Day. See you there!

### STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a separate form for each attendee; forms and checks go to:  
**EPNPS Treasurer, 408 Kenyon Joyce, El Paso TX 79902**  
Checks should be written to: EPNPS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trip Choices Saturday (1st and 2nd choice) A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D ( ) E ( ) F ( ) G ( )  
Field Trip Choice Sunday (1st and 2nd choice): H ( ) I ( ) J ( ) K ( ) L ( ) M ( )

NPSNM Registration Fee — \$70/Non-members \$80

After July 15, Registration \$75/\$90

If registration request is cancelled prior to July 15, \$65 will be refunded. Student registration (no meal included) available for \$20 with student ID.

Guest banquet tickets — \$25

Banquet Entrée Choice: Pasta ( ) Chicken ( ) Pork Tenderloin ( )

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for registration and \_\_\_\_\_ for guest banquet tickets.

Questions? contact Marshall Carter-Tripp, 915-351-8226, or [carter-tripp@earthlink.net](mailto:carter-tripp@earthlink.net).

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**734 North Reymond St.**  
**Las Cruces NM 88005**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #946  
Las Cruces, NM

*Be sure to check your membership  
renewal date on your address label*