



Apache-plume

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Melissa Savage, Editor

February, 1977

Happy new year to you all; for those who wondered where their last month's newsletter went, we apologize that January's did not appear as many of our contributors were away.

So we have yet to thank Bill Isaacs for his talk about mushrooms so ably presented in December, and yet to thank Irene Mitchell of Los Alamos for her thorough presentation on wildflowers suitable for gardening use with a superb collection of slides. Many thanks to both of you.

We have a full and fascinating spring's program ahead of us. This month's speaker is

Dr. William Gambill  
Director of the Denver Botanical Gardens

who will speak on Wednesday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm  
at St. John's College, Santa Fe

Dr. Gambill will speak on "Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in the Western World", which is especially apt in light of our own developing plans for a Santa Fe Arboretum.

On Wednesday March 2nd, at 7:30 pm (also at St. John's College) Larry Watson from Western Evergreen Nursery in Golden Colorado, and outstanding source for native herbs, shrubs and trees, will speak on landscaping with natives.

On Saturday, April 23rd at 7:30 pm, Dr. Thomas Todsén from Las Cruces will speak on Native Orchids of New Mexico. This will be a joint meeting with the Santa Fe-Los Alamos Orchid Club.

We are also planning our first field trip for March or April--a trip to the southern part of the state to chase cacti. If you have any special requests for field trips, or would be willing to lead one, please contact us.

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Notes of several conferences for anyone interested in a specialty:

The First International Rangeland Congress will be held in Denver, Colorado on August 14-19, 1978. It is being organized by the Society for Range Management, 2760 W. 5th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80204. It hopes to "strengthen and accelerate worldwide exchange of knowledge concerning rangelands" as well as pool our knowledge about this last neglected resource.

Also, the Linnean Society of London and the Botanical Society of the British Isles is hosting a conference on

"Plant Insect Relationships with Special Reference to Pollination"

Thursday April 14-Sunday April 17, 1977, at Castle Leazes Hall, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in case any of you are going to be in England this spring. Dr. A.T. Richards, at the Dept. of Biology at the University can help.

On January 26, Irene Mitchell spoke on gardening with native wildflowers, illustrating with her own beautiful slides. Here is a list from those slides as she presented them, of what blooms when. The list contains many of the most lovely wildflowers found above 6500'. Of course the time of blooming varies with the year's moisture, the elevation, the exposure and so forth; and the plants which are listed under a certain month may continue to bloom in the months following, as *Penstemon barbatus* which continues right through September in this region. This list should help those of us who are just learning our plants as to what to be alert for. And we thank Irene Mitchell for the slides and for discussing such varied aspects of the plants.

APRIL: Arizona valerian (*Valerian arizonica*), pasqueflower (*Anemone pulsatilla*), Easter daisy (*Townsendia excapa*)

MAY: candytuft (*Thaspi fendleri*), violet (*Viola canadensis*), buttercup (*Ranunculus ranunculinus*), golden banner (*Thermopsis divaricarpa*), Clematis pseudoalpina, Zinnia acerosa, paper flower (*Psilastrophe tagentina*)

JUNE: rose (*Rosa arkansana*), lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*), cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*), columbine (*Aquilegia elegantula* and *A. carulea*), Actinea or Hymenoxys argentea, marsh-marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), parry rose (*Primula parryi*), bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*), baneberry (*Actaea argula*), Penstemon whippleanus, Yucca baccata and *Y. glauca*, locust (*Robinia neomexicans*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum fendleri*), bog orchid (*Habenaria diletate*) and other orchids (*Corallorhiza maculata* and *C. trifida* and *Calypso bulbosa*), cactus (*Corypantha aggregata*), shooting-star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*), water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*)

JULY: mariposa lily (*Calochortus gunnisonii*), wallflower (*Erysimum asperum* and *E. nivale*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*), Geranium richardsonii, shrubby potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*), scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexifolia*), fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*), *Penstemon angustifolia* and *P. barbatus*, death camas (*Zigadenus elegans*), evening primrose (*Oenothera hookeri*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), long-plumed avens (*Geum triflorum*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Saxifrage bronchialis, wood-lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), *Pyrola asarifolia*, bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*)

AUGUST: *Potentilla thurberi*, beebalm (*Monarda menthafolia*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), owl-clover (*Orthocarpus purpurea alba*), *Corydalis caseana*, primrose (*Primula angustifolia*), springbeauty (*Claytonia megarhiza*), alpine forget-me-not (*Eritichium elongatum*), *Silene acaulis*, gentians (*Gentiana parryi*, *G. spathulata*, *G. amarella*)

SEPTEMBER: Goldenrod (*Solidago spathulata*), chamisa (*Chrysothamnum nauseosus*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), purple aster (*Aster bigelovii*), firewheel (*Gaillardia pinnatifida*), *Datura meteloides*

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ALSO:

THE 30TH ANNUAL CACTUS SHOW!!!

A big one. Desert Botanical Garden of Arizona in Phoenix  
February 20-27th. Those wishing to pool rides  
contact the editor-983-1113.

Here is a brief review of flora guides from  
one of our local botanists.

To choose a flower guide for New Mexico is not easy. In addition to 1) degree of technicality, 2) completeness of coverage, 3) up-to-dateness of names, and 4) cost, a New Mexican must consider 5) elevations of interest and 6) latitude and longitude of interest--because no manual is usable for the whole state. (Professor Wm. C. Martin labors on.)

Well-illustrated popular manuals include only a small percentage of conspicuous species and no inconspicuous ones. Those published by Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, such as Flowers of the Southwest Mesas, are excellent and inexpensive at \$1.50 to \$2.00 each. Local bookstores; or complete price list from the Association, Box 1562 Globe, Arizona 85501.

Next step "up" (in size, price...) are field guides that cover larger areas: J. Craighead et al., 1963/1974, Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers (\$4.95 paper) and R. Nelson, 1969, Handbook of Rocky Mountain Plants (temporarily out of print; some copies still in stores at \$6.95). Colorado and northward, rather than New Mexico, is the center of these authors' attention, so they can't compete with the New Mexico-produced series mentioned above except in the ponderosa zone or higher.

H.W. Ricketts, 1970, Wild Flowers of the United States: The Southwestern States (\$72) is a beautifully illustrated, 801-page, 3-volume popular flora that includes nearly all conspicuous species and some inconspicuous ones (but no flower so small as grass or sedge). Excellent for the whole state (and westward), especially as a supplement to the pictureless technical manuals.

Technical manuals are harder to use, but contain nearly all species. Those compared in the following tables are W.A. Weber, 1976, Rocky Mountain Flora 5th edition; H.D. Harrington, 1954/"1964" (~~not~~) not in fact revised then), Manual of the Plants of Colorado; D.S. Correll & M.C. Johnston, 1970, Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas (temporarily out of print?); T.H. Kearney & R.H. Peebles, 1964, Arizona Flora 2nd supplemented edition; I. Tidestrom & M.T. Kittell, 1941, A Flora of Arizona and New Mexico (out of print); E.O. Wootton & P.C. Standley, 1915, Flora of New Mexico (reprinted

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<sup>Cramer</sup>  
by ~~Lehner~~, 1971).

<u>author</u>	<u>where most useful</u>	<u>complete descriptions?</u>	<u>up-to-date?</u>	<u>pages</u>	<u>price</u>
Weber	no.mts.	- (but some pictures)	+++	ca.450	\$ 12.50
Harrington	<del>no</del> ; explains	+	+	666	17.95
C & J	e. & so.	+	++	1,881	30.00 ?
K & P	w. & so.	-	+	1,085	16.50
T & K	not very useful	-	-	897	---
W & S	not useful for identification	-	---	794	ca. 32.00

(The last two are included mainly to warn away the unwary; they have important uses, but not as principal guides to identification.)

For many groups of New Mexico plants--acquatic, edible, weedy, woody; particular families such as grasses and cacti; particular genera such as Potentilla and Aristida--there are better sources than these manuals. Future comments in future issues!

--R.S.P.

Added by another resident botanist:

Handbook of Rocky Mountain Plants by Ruth Ashton Nelson.  
Helpful for northern New Mexico; full of good line drawings, some color plates; for interested amateur but not technical. One need only recognize the difference between monocots and dicots, united- and free-petal distinctions which Ruth Nelson explains.

We are finally weeding out our mailing list.  
Only those who have paid their dues -- \$5.00 individual and \$8.00 family--and those who have earnestly requested their name be on the mailing list will continue to get the newsletter. So pay up or put in an earnest request if you want it.

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