

Native Plant Society of New Mexico ***newsletter***

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1984

VOLUME IX NO.1

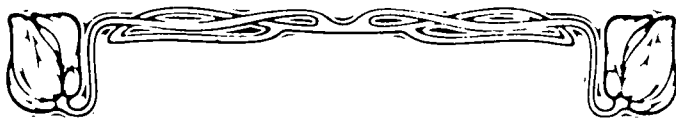
- Jan/Feb Southeast Chapter has no set meeting time. For information, call George or Myrtle Finley (622-8486).
- Jan/Feb Glenn Niner Chapter will meet with Albuquerque.
- January 4 Albuquerque Chapter meets (1st Wednesdays): John Egbert will present a program on Gila Wildflowers. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Rd NW, 7:30 pm.
- January 18 Las Cruces Chapter meets: Judith Phillips will present a program on Landscaping with Natives. NMSU Ag Bldg. Room 156. 7:30 pm.
- January 18 Santa Fe Chapter meets (3rd Wednesdays): Mark Cherry will present a program on Landscaping with Natives. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- January 15 NPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Business meeting at the Bosque del Apache Game Refuge Visitors Center. 12:00 noon. Members welcome. (if bad weather, this meeting will be Jan. 22)
- January 28 Santa Fe Chapter Field Trip: A winter botany walk to Pankey Peak, (west of Santa Fe), looking for mound cacti, led by Don Lowrie and Phyllis Hughes. For more information, call Iris (988-1709).
- February 1 Albuquerque Chapter meets: Judith Phillips will present a program on Propagating natives by seed. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain NW, 7:30 pm.
- February 8 Las Cruces Chapter meets (2nd Wednesdays): For information on this meeting, call Tom (522-4434), Jean (526-3771) or Bob (523-1806). NMSU Ag Bldg. Room 156. 7:30 pm.
- February 15 Santa Fe Chapter meets: John Hubbard will present a program on a potpourri of things. St. John's College, Lab Bldg, Rm 118 7:30 pm
- February 24 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets (last Sundays): Use of Native Edible Plants is the topic in preparation for the spring native edible potluck in March. Bring recipes to share. Scout Hut, 1012 Oregon, Alamogordo. 2:00 pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Mexico Field Office of the Nature Conservancy is raising money to fund several projects in our state. These include the preservation of two endangered cacti and two habitat areas in four parts of the state. I urge members to send a donation to the New Mexico Field Office at 610 Gold SW, Albuquerque NM 87102. In this manner we can help save not only habitat and wildlife but also our unique plant life which concerns us all.

We are in great need of committee chairpersons and members. Please write to the newsletter editors, myself, or let your chapter president know of your interests. We have Conservation, Education, Publicity and Newsletter committees, and a seed-exchange coordinator at the present time waiting for your help and enthusiasm. This is your organization and it needs you if it is to work.

-T.H.



CHAPTERS

- Albuquerque - Jackie Farr, 725-18 Tramway Vista Dr. NE, Albuquerque NM 87122 (294-2178)
- Glenn Niner - Lisa Johnston, PO Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031 (865-5608)
- Las Cruces - Jean Lozier, 1934 Highland Ave, Las Cruces NM 88001 (526-3771)
- Otero-Lincoln - Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd. Alamogordo NM 88310 (434-3041)
- Madeline Murray, PO Drawer 368, Ruidoso Downs NM 88346 (378-4117)
- Santa Fe - Iris David, PO Box 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502 (988-1709)
- Southeast - George & Myrtle Finley, 1001 Kings Road, Roswell NM 88201 (622-8486)

Contributors to this issue:

- J.P. Judith Phillips
- J.D. Jean Dodd
- R.P. Roger Peterson
- T.H. Ted Hodoba



LETTER TO OUR READERS

As with life in general, there are beginnings and ends. We have come to the end of our time as Editors of your newsletter, and we begin the editorship of George and Myrtle Finley of Roswell.

We have enjoyed these past two years: meeting interesting people from all over, getting to know fellow NPS members and best of all learning much about our native plants.

We're not deserting you though. Old habits are hard to break. Both of us plan to continue writing articles and working with George & Myrtle. Many thanks to all of you for your support and suggestions.

So long, but not goodbye.

Lisa & Judith

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

...I am working on a book of desert wildflowers and would appreciate any help you can give me on locations that might be best and what times would give the greatest variety of plants. Have you had the rain that further west deserts had? A friend in geology wrote that the Mohave desert is already carpeted in little yellow flames. Any information you can supply would be appreciated.

Mabel Crittenden
50 Alhambra Court
Portola Valley CA 94025

- Here's your chance to get your favorite areas mentioned in print. Let her know your choice spots and approximate peak bloom periods.

-The Ed.

BILL MAYFIELD MEMORIAL PARK

Otero members voted at the October business meeting to use a donation from Bill Mayfield, together with memorial donations, to establish a native Bill Mayfield Memorial Park in Alamogordo. The City has been given the 5 year use of 80 acres of land near the Sacramento Mountains by the BLM. If the BLM approves of the land use at the end of 5 years, the land will be turned over to the city. The memorial park would be at the beginning of a nature trail in the upper east 40 acres of the land.

Plants and/or seeds used will come partly from Bill's friends and the remainder will be purchased from Tom Wootten's Dry Country Plants of Las Cruces. Otero members will go out in May to identify and mark plants to be left undisturbed when the nature trail is installed. At the same time they can look over the area to be used for the park. In July Jim Bowlin of the Parks & Recreation Department will submit plans and budget requirements to the city commissioners. So the actual planting of the park is sometime in the future.

In the meantime, Bill's friends across the state can be thinking about putting something of themselves in the park: seeds or plants from your place suitable to Alamogordo's desert climate.

-J.D.

CHAPTER NOTES

Albuquerque

In November, the Albuquerque Chapter went to the Castetter Garden for our yearly clean-up and tour. This year the garden was fairly clean and happily we didn't have much trash to pick up. With drinks and donuts provided, the "crew" discussed various matters. A decision was made to donate \$25 each to the Mimbres River and the Rattlesnake Springs Projects of Nature Conservancy.

A NATIVE PLANT LOVERS'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

1. I will try to cultivate as many native plants 'new' to me as possible in 1984 (I like to start with at least one resolution I know I'll keep.)
2. I will keep brief, accurate records of my growing experiences for future reference.
3. I will contribute articles, drawings, notes of native interest, announcements of coming events, etc. to the NPS-NM newsletter (Ahem...)
4. I will visit as many "wild places" (native habitats) both old favorites and new adventures, as I can in 1984, and I'll walk softly while I'm there.
5. I will become actively involved in a native community project, Castetter Garden improvement and maintenance, The Museum of Natural History, a seed exchange program, the Children's Psychiatric Center slope stabilization project, NPS plant sale fund raisers, the Botanical Garden in Albuquerque, the Folk Art Museum landscape in Santa Fe, Willie Chavez State Park Wildflower project in Belen, Bill Mayfield native garden in Alamogordo.....
6. I will keep this list short. We native plant lovers are a practical lot.

In December we held our annual potluck dinner. The food was absolutely delicious and the company superb. We also viewed the Society's slides of Dog Canyon near Alamogordo. There was a gift for everyone including various things such as plants, drawings, and seeds. This is an annual event and I'd urge every chapter to do this and to have as much fun as we do.

-T.H.



A seedling shoulders up some crumbs of ground:
The fields are suddenly green for miles around!

-Hô-ô

There's nothing like a raw January wind to send a body searching for the hot cocoa and seed catalogs. Seeds after all are a mute statement of hope, a little magic, the remedy for post-holiday blahs and winter blues. Just add water.

So, as we wind up our term as editors, we'd like to leave you with this.... the promise of greener days.

Most of us are familiar with Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe as a seed source. Many members have also begun a warm and enduring relationship with Southwestern Native Seeds (Box 5053, Tucson AZ 85703, \$1.00 catalog). Penstemonians tell us that the American Penstemon Society (399 Cheltenham Dr, Dayton OH 45459) hosts periodic seed exchanges. Boyce Thompson Arboretum (PO Box AB, Superior AZ 85273, Attn. Curator of Botany) offers an interesting selection of source identified seed. NPS member organization Wildland & Native Seed Foundation (2402 Hoffman Dr. NE, Albuquerque NM 87110) custom collects seed and retains an inventory of NM native collected, source identified seed. WNSF also publishes a handy little newsletter, Seed Collector's Notes. For those requiring large quantities of seed for cover-the-earth (or it just seems like it) projects, Curtis & Curtis Inc. (Star Route, Box 8A, Clovis NM 88101) can provide quality native grass seed as well as a booklet, Southwest Plants, and Environmental Seed Producers (PO Box 5125, El Monte, CA 91734) is a bulk supplier of native annual and perennial wildflower seeds.

The New England Wildflower Society, as an adjunct of their worldwide botanical garden seed distribution, is offering for sale freshly collected seeds and spores of over 100 native plants. A list can be ob-

tained by sending a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope to Seed Sales, New England Wildflower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham MA 01701. They must receive this before February 1, 1984.

Native Seeds/SEARCH (Southwestern Endangered Arid Land Resource Clearing House) is a non-profit organization devoted to conservation, research and promotion of crops and related wild species of the greater Southwest. Their selection of 50 rare or unusual native crop varieties is accompanied by specific recommendations to help you select seed particularly suited to your garden site. The list is available for \$1.00 from Native Seeds: SEARCH, 3950 W. New York Dr, Tucson AZ 85745.

NPS-NM would like to start a seed exchange program, perhaps using Northern Nevada NPS's program as a model (we didn't list them as a source here as lists must be submitted by mid-December, seed is disbursed once annually. Saves wear and tear on volunteers.) Inquiries may be made to Ted Hodoba (see officers' addresses).

Catalogs in hand, you'd like some background information? One of the most thorough, yet brief publications available is:

Collecting, Processing & Germinating Seeds of Western Wildland Plants from USDA Science & Education Administration, Renewable Resource Center, 920 Valley Rd, Reno, NM 87512.

Two hardbound seed "bibles" are: Seeds of Woody Plants of the United States (Agricultural Handbook 450) and SEEDS: the Yearbook of Agriculture, 1961.




These reference works, as well as two new paperback publications of interest: Ecology & Culture of Selected Species useful in Revegetating Disturbed Lands in the West (USDI- Fish & Wildlife Service) and Plant Materials for Use on Surface Mined Lands in Arid & Semi-Arid Regions (USDA- Soil Conservation Service) are available through the Superintendent of Documents, US Gov't Printing Office, Washington DC 20402.

We have suggested that serious growers keep accurate crop notes for future reference. Trying to recall from year to year what-was-done-when-&-with-what-results is generally beyond almost anyone not labeled with a Hewlett Packard serial number. Although such notes are kept easily on index cards or in a notebook, there are garden record books available.

A vegetable crop oriented 3 Year Garden Record booklet available for \$2.00 from Earthborne Industries (8453 W. Rice Ave, Littleton CO 80123) gives space for recording up to 80 seed varieties in 20 categories, including seed sources, dates, comments and weather conditions by month. A more elegant clothbound landscape oriented version of this idea is available from the Metropolitan Museum of Art (255 Gracie Station, NY NY 10028) for about \$15.00 including shipping.

Given seeds, the information to grow them and the wherewithall to record your successes, we have one final note. Thoughtful members have suggested that we remind readers that even a good plant in the wrong place can become a real problem. Consider the Chinese Elm and tumbleweed. Before asking for seeds from other states, ask your county extension agent or Lyle Houk, seed inspector for the NM Dept. of Agriculture (PO Box 3150, Las Cruces NM 88003 or Albuquerque phone 842-3805) whether your choices are trouble free.

And for you of little faith, "Grow it from seed ?!?", plants are available from our advertisers:




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HEDGING THE ISSUE

Life is beset with unpleasantries, petty and grand. I can't do anything, personally, tomorrow, to reduce the threat of nuclear war. I can, however, screen out the neighbor's eyesore dog run, muffle the sound of street traffic and insulate my patio from public scrutiny. Using native landscape ornamentals, I can even accomplish these aims without substantially increasing my water bill. The list of native material available for screens, windbreaks, and hedges is varied. Choice is determined by the space available and the color and texture desired.

Trees: 20-30 feet tall, allow for at least 12' of spread.

Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis) provides a lace screen, more an ornamental suggestion of enclosure than an actual visual barrier, with a bonus of summer flowers and the hummingbirds that visit them.

Forestiera (F. neomexicana) provides a dense deciduous screen, gold fall color and can be easily maintained in a 6 foot wide row where space is somewhat limited. Forestiera shears well if topiary turns you on.

Rose Locust (Robinia neomexicana) provides a dense deciduous screen, a thorny physical (ouch!) barrier and lovely rose-pink flower clusters.

The many horticultural cultivars of the native Juniper (J. scopulorum) among them 'Blue Haven', 'Emerald Green', 'Pathfinder' and 'Welchii' have the advantage of being evergreen, especially useful for sound as well as wind and sight barriers.

Shrubs: 4-6 feet in height when grown relatively dry, allow for at least 4 feet of spread.

Apache Plume (Fallugia paradoxa) is mostly evergreen, attractive all year and due to its suckering

growth habit forms a dense hedge without shearing.

Cliffrose (Cowania mexicana) is not only evergreen but incredibly fragrant when flowering.

Chamisa (Chrysothamnus nauseosus) has a broomy textural effect and yellow gold flowers in Autumn.

Three leaf Sumac (Rhus trilobata) provides dense foliage cover during the growing season and beautiful scarlet fall color.

Vines: grown on fencing as an accent or camouflage, they can provide dense vertical cover using only a foot wide strip of horizontal space.

NM Creeper (Parthenocissus inserta) is unbeatable for its red fall color, while Western Virginsbower (Clematis ligusticifolia) provides privacy with bright green foliage complemented by showy flowers (male plants) and plummy seedheads (female plants).

-J.P.

ASTRAGALING ALONG

"Dragma Hippomanicum IX", latest of Rupert Barneby's examinations of the pea family, is a description of Astragalus Knightii. This spring-blooming milk vetch from the Rio Puerco has whitish, lilac-tinged petals. Though much smaller, it shares many characteristics with Astragalus ceramicus, which is present in the same area (Sandoval County, T13N R2W sections 28 & 33) on deep sandy soils, whereas A. Knightii is limited to ledges of Dakota sandstone. Though collected in 1976 by Geoffrey Levin, good material and field studies awaited Paul Knight's work in 1982. Barneby dedicates the species to Knight, who is with Heritage Program of the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources. (Brittonia 35:109-110, 1983.)

-R.S.P.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

The City of Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico very recently signed the joint powers agreement creating the task force for the UNM/City Botanical Garden. The way is now clear for a good site to be selected. Both the City and the University have generously offered several properties each to the task force for evaluation.

The task force consists of an enthusiastic team of UNM students and faculty, community volunteers, & a representative of the Albuquerque Public Schools. Baker Morrow serves as its chief, Roy Sooter is the Chief City liaison, and Roz Menton is the Administrative Asst. The task force headquarters are in the Design and Planning Assistance Center (DPAC), an arm of the School of Architecture and Planning at UNM.

The work of the task force will be presented to a Review Advisory Committee as it develops. The committee is composed of six members:

PUBLIC	Pauline Gubbels Jane Mabry
CITY	Fran Kleinhenz Orlando Sedillo
UNM	George Anselevicius William Martin

Ex officio members are Mayor Harry Kinney and President John Perovich. The Review Advisory Committee will elect its officers at its October meeting.

The study period is slated to last six months, starting October 1983. Once the site has been found, several of the most important study goals will be:

1. To fully develop a preliminary masterplan for the garden and to construct a model for that plan.
2. To arrange on-going funding.

3. To plan for a phased development that will allow full participation by the garden clubs and specialty plant societies.

4. To arrange for a comprehensive botanical garden administration.

The Botanical garden may well consist of 60-80 acres. The aim is to create a garden of national stature with a target of some 10,000 plant species to ultimately be displayed. Dr. Martin has noted that within New Mexico's boundaries there are about 4400 seed-bearing plant species. Only a very small number of these plants have been brought into cultivation. The Botanical garden will offer a first-class chance to change that.

The task force receives inquiries about donations nearly every day. Accounts for both the City of Albuquerque and the UNM Foundation are expected to be set up by the end of October to handle contributions to the garden.

What will we call the Botanical Garden? Look for a contest announcement to pick the name for it within the next few months.

-Reprinted from
"The Garden Gate "
Nov. 1983 issue



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___ Growing for resale
___ Informal classes
___ Newsletter ___ Youth projects
___ Organize new chapter
___ Membership drive
___ Other (please specify)

How would you describe your level of expertise? What areas would you be willing to help with?

Are you a member of an organization with related purposes (Garden Club, NM Wildflower Association, etc.)?



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