Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

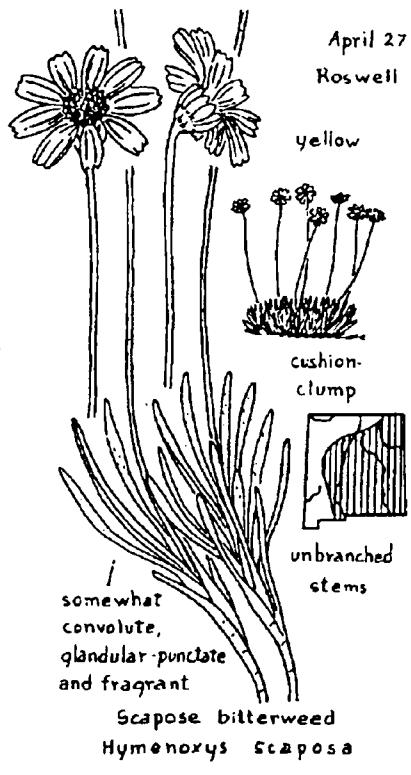
January/February 1996 Volume XXI Number 1

Wildflowers of the Panhandle

by Don Bozeman
reprinted from Native Plant Society of Texas News XII (6), 1994

The Panhandle, like other parts of Texas, has a diversity of wildflowers offering an array of color - pink, white, lavender, blue, yellow, purple, reddish orange, wine, or maroon red.

One of the earliest of the spring bloomers, of course, is Easter daisy, *Townsendia exscapa.* However, one truly needs to practice belly botany to appreciate it. One of my spring favorites is Fendler penstemon, *Penstemon fendleri*. This lavender beauty grows twelve to eighteen inches tall and blooms most of April. Sometimes we see pink or white forms of it. Just as the blooms from *Penstemon fendleri* start to subside, *Penstemon albidus* begins its white parade near my Timbercreek Canyon home. At the same time, blue-eyed grass begins to bloom along the roadsides in Timbercreek Canyon. According to Hatch, Gandhi, and Brown in ***Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Texas,*** both *Sisyrinchium demissum* and S. *ensigerum* are commonly found in the Panhandle. The brilliant orange of caliche globe mallow, *Sphaeralcea coccinea,* also graces the roadsides in the spring. Prairies are often covered with a sea of yellow from bitterweed, *Hymenoxys odorata* and *Hymenoxys* or *Tetraneuris scaposa.* On my property I have also found what ***Plants of the Southwest*** calls Perky Sue with the botanical name of *Hymenoxys argentea.* The leaves are rather fuzzy, wider than the other species, and definitely silver. It does not grow in colonies as the others do, however, but isolated plants are found in various places. The bloom resembles the others.



Wildcat Bluff Native Habitat, near the Bishop Hills area, has an array of blue flax in the later spring. This is the annual *Linum pratense* usually only three to five inches tall. It is a pale or delicate blue. Last year, the Amarillo chapter, on a field trip to Caprock Canyons State Park in the middle of May, observed a vast display of this flower in Palo Duro Canyon south of Claude, Texas, on Highway 207.

From early summer to midsummer, the variety of color is quite evident. In Palo Duro Canyon, as well as other places in the Panhandle, June brings the vivid blue of widow's tears or dayflower, the tall white bloom of prairie larkspur, the lavender to purple of lemon horsemint, the fiery red and yellow combination of Indian blanket, the delicate rose to orchid color of skeleton plant, the splendid and stately beauty of basket flower with its creamy white center and outer edges of pinkish purple, the violet-purple of spiderwort, the golden hue of paperflower, the pink to magenta of bush morning glory, and the reddish purple of wine cup. On field trips to the Duncan Ranch (north of White Deer) in early June, and Palo Duro Canyon in late June, we have seen combinations of these plants blooming at one time in certain locations.

For several years a neighbor of mine in Timbercreek had an unbelievable display of basket flower that solidly spanned half an acre from early to late July. Various members of the chapter came to see it and photograph it. We have very nice slides of it.

In the middle of the summer, one sees chiefly the yellow and white flowers that have long blooming seasons: blackfoot daisy, paperflower, Engelmann daisy, prairie zinnia, and so forth. The primary exceptions, of course, are the deep purple of Baldwin ironweed, *Vernonia baldwinii,* or plains ironwood, *Vernonia marginata,* and the maroon red of *Krameria lanceolata.*

Fall is graced by yellow mounds of broomweed or snakeweed, *Gutierrezia* or *Xanthocephalum,* and the lavender to purple spikes of gayfeather, *Liatris punctata.* Later the tall golden

Inside...

splendor of Maximilian sunflower may be seen.

I like using wildflowers near my house so that I can view them from indoors as well as by going outside. In a portion of a meadow area in back of the house is an expanse of Maximilian sunflower, in an area which gets runoff water. In a rock garden under the large living room window, I have planted or encouraged various wildflowers. Among these are wine cups, blue-eyed grass, Fendler penstemon, butterfly weed, prairie larkspur, cutleaf germander, big blue sage, prairie zinnia, Mexican hat, chocolate flower, brown-eyed Susan, Engelmann daisy, and sweet sand verbena.

A short distance from the rock garden near a one-seed juniper but also visible from the same window, I have widow's tears, spiderwort, more blue-eyed grass, goldenrod *(Solidago peltolaris* and S. *gigantea* var. *serotina)*, more big blue sage, more wine cups, and a starter of western indigo *(Indigofera)* from Estelle Duncan.

The hardiest sage or salvia I have found for our area is big blue sage. It can take any directional exposure. It flourishes even on the cold northern exposure. I love its height, grace, and sky-blue color. Hatch, Gandhi, and Brown place *Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora* in every vegetational area of Texas. Although I have never seen it growing wild in the Texas countryside, I have seen *Salvia azurea* growing wild in the countryside near Hebron, Nebraska, a testimony to its winter hardiness. Many people in the Amarillo area plant *Salvia farinacea,* which is attractive, but I definitely prefer *Salvia azurea.*

Of the yellow flowers in the Panhandle, I especially like Engelmann daisy for its hardiness, foliage, and longevity of bloom, but I also like paper flower and chocolate flower almost as well. For its maroon or burgundy color, its hardiness and longevity of bloom, I enjoy Mexican hat but am not overly fond of the seed heads. But then I don't find the seed heads of Indian blanket very attractive even though I regard the flower quite beautiful.

For border plants or low mounds, I like blackfoot daisy, prairie zinnia, and our white form of *Hedyotis,* the variety of which I have yet to identify. A little taller mound of bright yellow that I especially enjoy is a subshrub which J.R. Bell of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service identified some years ago as *Oenothera serrulata* (now known as *Calylophus serrulatus).* However, Hatch,

The **Newsletter** is published six times per year by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.
Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. A wide selection of books is available at discount. The society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld. Contact our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative for more information. Call chapter contacts for further info.

We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

Advertising Schedule
Approved advertisements will cost $40 per year.

Schedule of Membership Fees
Dues are $10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of $25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 10800 Griffith Park Drive, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions
Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor. See address below or email to tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu
Deadline for the next newsletter is Feb. 1.

Gandhi, and Brown also note that the halfshrub *C. herlandieri* is present in all the vegetational areas of Texas. My favorite has quite narrow leaves and a very deep taproot. All of these are quite attractive and useful. They are hardy, have a very long blooming season, and thrive in the summer heat.

For rich pink color and stately height in June, I enjoy our form of black Sampson or purple coneflower, *Echinacea angustifolia.* I've helped nature along by taking seeds of plants on my property and carefully planting them. I've done the same, of course, with gayfeather for lavender or purple bloom in early fall. Although the latter part of the summer has less colorful wildflowers, something is blooming in the Panhandle from early spring through autumn.

Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use the wonderful drawings from his book *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, in our *Newsletter.*

Wintertime Plant Identification

by Andrea Morgan
reprinted from *Words on Wilderness*, Spring 1993

Take a walk in the woods this winter and you may be amazed at your ability to recognize and identify plants even without their familiar leaves and flowers. You'll be using not only your eyes, but your sense of taste, touch and smell as well.

Bark, twigs and buds are key things to observe when identifying plants in winter. Other indicators are growth habit (general shape), cones or catkins, fruits or seeds, and the surrounding plant community

Let's start with the basics. Buds are arranged on the stem in three ways: whorled, opposite and alternate. Whorled buds occur in groups of three at approximately the same height on the stem (example; most conifers). Opposite buds occur in pairs directly opposing each other on the stem (example; Rocky Mountain Maple, *Acer glabrum).* Alternate buds occur in more or less spiral patterns (example; Serviceberry shrubs, *Amelanchier alnifolia).* Pick up a plant identification book to learn more about specific bud characteristics. The bark of trees and shrubs is also important to observe. Color and texture are good indicators of species. Look for lenticels (circular or irregular shaped wart-like prominences) scattered in the bark. Chokecherry *(Prunus virginianus)* and Birch *(Betula spp.)* bark have conspicuous horizontal lenticels. Have you ever chewed on a chokecherry twig? The flavor is extremely bitter and astringent. Ninebark shrubs *(Physocarpus malvaceous)* have vertically shredding bark. Aspen bark (Populus *tremuloides)* is smooth and dull gray-green to white in color.

Many plants can be identified by their spines, prickers or thorns. The first one that comes to mind is the wild rose *(Rosa spp.).* If your pant legs snag while walking through a thicket, chances are you've met up with a woods rose. You'll often find a few withered red rosehips still hanging here and there. Hawthorne trees *(Cratageous spp.)* can be identified by their deadly sharp spines.

Dried fruits and seeds that still remain on the plants in the winter can help us identify species. Rosehips, as previously mentioned, stand out in a winter landscape with their bright color. Others aren't so obvious. A few dried-up chokecherries might still be hanging on an occasional shrub; they grow in drooping clusters. Serviceberries are often confused with chokecherries, especially in winter. These berries grow in smaller, more upright clusters. The serviceberry has several seeds per fruit, while the chokecherry has one pit. If you come across a conspicuous white berry on a mid-sized shrub, you may have found a snowberry shrub (*Symphoricarpus albus*). Maples, both Rocky Mountain and box elders may still have seeds attached to their branches. They are pale orange to light brown, and resemble papery wings. One way to identify an alder (*Alnus* spp.) is to find the small brown catkins, about one inch long, dangling from the upper branches. They resemble a lacy, miniature cone, and have already dropped their seeds by this time.

Take note of the plant communities while on winter hikes. The surrounding plant species can give you clues as to what you might be seeing. Along streamsides you'll find thickets of red osier dogwood (*Comus stolonifera*), various species of willows (*Salix*), patches of chokecherries, tall cottonwoods (*Populus* spp.) and aspen swales. On open south or west facing slopes you'll see occasional serviceberry clusters, sage (*Artemesia*) and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), bunchbrush (*Ceanothus*), junipers and pines. Look for oregongrape (*Berberis repens*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), ninebark and snowberry bushes growing beneath a canopy of pines and Douglas firs.

CALENDAR

ALBUQUERQUE

Jan. 11 "Fire Ecology in an Urban Setting" by Jerome McDonald. 7:30, Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas.
Feb. 1 "Propagation of Native Plants" by Aspen Evans, 7:30, Albuquerque Garden Center.
Mar. 2 Field trip to Wildroot Horticultural nursery, 9:30 am.

OTERO

Feb. 16 "The Chihuahuan Desert" by Richard Spellenberg. 7:00, Bert Reeves Auditorium, NM School for Visually Handicapped.

A HIKE UP MCKITTRICK CANYON

On Saturday, October 21st, members of the Madrone chapter N.M.N.P.S. were joined by Members of the Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Association for a hike up McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. We were told that the fall colors were not yet at their peak but: no one was disappointed with the colors that we saw. The south east corner of N.M. received above average rainfall in September and the fall wildflowers and grasses responded well.

At the visitor's center the flameleaf Prairie Sumac (*Rhus lanceolata*) was just beginning to show some deep purple red coloring. The birds had not gotten to all of the red seeds yet which added to their beauty. The Silver Dalea (*Dalea argyraea*) was in full bloom. We also saw a few Wooly Dalea (*lanata*) and Wright Dalea with its uncharacteristic yellow flowers. In the early morning sunlight the Silvery Pink seed tails of the Apache Plume were spectacular.

The first part of the trail is desert brushland. We found Desert Ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggi*) in bloom. Seeds were just beginning to form on the Silverleaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus* var *argenteus*) the Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*) was not showing any color in the leaves. It needs real freezing weather to begin showing it's wine red leaves. Between the shrubs and on open gravelly sites we did see both common Dogweed (*Dyssodia pentachaeta*) and Gregg Dogweed (*Dyssodia setifolia* var. *radiata*). The Damianita (*Chrysactinia mexicana*) was also in bloom. The Starleaf Mexican Orange (*Choysia dumosa*) responded to the recent rains with a few flowers as well.

The grasses were spectacular. We were able to identify spike dropseed (*Sporobolus contractus*), Feather pappusgrass (*Eneapogon desvauxii*), Red Gramma (*Bouteloua trifida*), Sideoats Gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Bushy Bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), and one sedge, Jamaica Saw-grass (*Cladium jamaicense*).

The Madrone (*Arbutus xalapensis*) is beautiful this time of year. The trees are shedding their red bark exposing white bark beneath. The clusters of red berries (Little apples) set off the dark glossy green leaves and the pale branches. The Red berry Junipers (*Juniperus pinchotii*) were heavy with fruit and bloom. The sulphur-yellow pollen drifted in clouds when hikers brushed past them on the trail.

The main focus of the trip was the Big Tooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*). The fall color range of this one plant never ceases to astound. We found leaves from clear translucent reds to dark maroon red to what can only be described as flourescent pink to yellows. Even the yellows range from orange to pale translucent yellows. Some of the trees were completely colored and beginning to drop their leaves while others were still very green. A dedicated person could spend their entire life to the study of these plants. Wouldn't it be nice if we could purchase named clones of the Big Tooth Maple with the same ease of purchasing a Japanese Maple?

We ate lunch at the grotto. The grotto is a place where part of the Canyon wall sloughed off exposing what was once a cave. It must of happened a long time ago because a Ponderosa Pine is growing from the top of the rubble and it has a diameter of over 24". In this arid part of the state it takes over a hundred years for a ponderosa to grow that large.

The steep canyon walls and cliff faces fascinate me. Where there is water the cliff faces supported the growth of Maiden -Hair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), and yellow Columbine (*Aquelegia chaplinei*). Drier parts of the cliffs sported Rockmat Spiraea (*Petrophytum caespitosum*), Snapdragon vine (*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*), Hairy Resurrection plant (*Selaginella pilifera*), Standley Cloakfern (*Notholaena Standleyi*) and Cliff Fendler Bush (*Fendlera rupicola*) just to name a few.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford

At our meeting of October 11, Dr. Laura Huenneke, biology professor at NMSU, spoke on The Ecological Impact of Invasive Plants.'' This subject includes many factors: components of global change, biological homogenization, invasive non-native plants, harmful non-indigenous species in the U. S., ecosystem health, erosion, alteration of nutrient cycling and soil chemistry, alteration of hydrology and streamflow, and effects on disturbance regimes such as fire and flooding.

Cheatgrass can outcompete the root systems of native grasses. Lehman Lovegrass not only forces out native grasses, but the birds leave and even the ants go elsewhere when this grass takes over. Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) not only takes up copious amounts of water from rivers and irrigation ditches and forces out native Cottonwood and Willow trees, but it also alters the nutrient cycling and soil chemistry by collecting salt from the water and then depositing it on the land as its leaves drop. When the land is overgrazed **and** the grass is gone, Creosote becomes an invasive shrub, and then every rain causes more erosion of the soil. Pampas grass is an attractive, controllable plant in New Mexico; but after its introduction in California, it has become an invasive plant in that area. This is an extremely complex situation whereby the introduction of one foreign plant or animal to a natural ecosystem can upset the balance and begin an ever-widening succession of changes.

On the field trip of October 15th, seven members hiked the trail leading to the Rabbit Ears Canyon in the Organ Mountains. There were many wildflowers, including clusters of wild Zinnia, some yellow and some white. Up in the canyon there was a large field of blue Salvia, and several Organ Mountain Evening Primroses.

On November 8th, we had our annual potluck dinner. Susan Tweit read the very interesting introduction from her new book, Barren, Wild, and Worthless: Living in the Chihuahuan Desert, a series of personal essays on native plants and ecology, published by the University of New Mexico Press.

Albuquerque - Lu Bennett

Tom Ellis of City of Albuquerque Parks Management spoke at our October meeting about maintaining city plantings. There are over 1000 acres of turf grass to be maintained and there is an active water conservation program by the city now that monitors water runoff in the streets. It is near impossible for the city to water without getting some in the street because most parks built before 1984 are planted curb to curb with grass. Most developers and homeowners have since been landscaping with about eight feet of gravel around turf. The city is currently watering Blue Grass about 38" of water each year, even though it needs about 52" each year. His recommendations for maintaining the grasses include the following: Aerate all turf in summer including Blue Gramma and Buffalo. Raise lawn mowers to save water because shorter grass takes more water. Drop fertilizing. Hose the dry spots instead of trying to water all dry spots with automatic sprinklers. Probe the soil to determine how deep the roots are and irrigate deeply and frequently. Also, "water with the seasons" which means water a warm season grass in the warm weather. The pattern that Albuquerque has taken with Blue Grass is not its natural course. He pointed out that Kentucky Blue Grass is brown in the hot summertime in Kentucky. It is a cool season grass, yet in Albuquerque it is watered heavily in the summertime and fertilized to stay green.

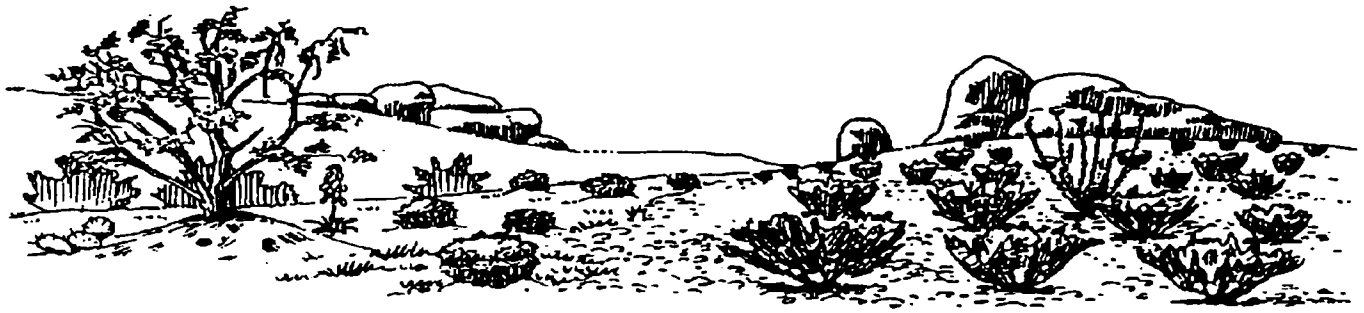
At the December meeting a life membership was awarded to Judith and Roland Phillips for their many years of promoting interest in native plants.

Otero-Jean Dodd

The Otero Chapter of the Native Plant Society has honored Nancy Hutto with a life membership in recognition of her many, many hours of helping with whatever needs to be done. She started our chapter service of selling native plant books at our rare sit down programs,sometimes at fieldtrips, and special events like our plant sale,Greg Magee's landscape programs, and the Labor Day Cottonwood Festival. Nancy started being interested in native plants by going to a Community Ed class on natives taught by Bill Mayfield before there was a formal chapter here. She helped try to start a chapter in Ruidoso to include Capitan but no one was willing to do the work so Ruidoso members come down for Otero's trips. Upon special request she sold books at her home. Janie Furman now has the book supply and Nancy will be free to help with other projects using her years of experience with native plants.

Fourteen hardy individuals took about 5 hours to hike the 5.5 mile, often steep (20-50~ gradient) Dog Canyon Trail from its upper trailhead. Arrangemments had to be made to take the hikers the 21 miles of gravel,dirt,and rocky road, FR-90 and FR-9OB, from High Rolls to the trailhead. High clearance vehicles were required for the last 3 miles. So that hikers would have waiting transportation for them at the end of the hike at the mouth of Dog Canyon, vehicles were left the night before in OliverLee Memorial State Park. The scenery from the trail is considered by one writer to be the best in the Sacramento District of the Lincoln National Forest. Two large benches of several acres each with abundant vegetation were crossed. At least two dozen wildflower species were in bloom along the trail. The most conspicuous plant was Skeleton Golden-eye (Viguiera stenoloba) a 2-4' shrub withnumerous yellow flower-heads each slightly more than 1 inch across. For a few hundred feet, the trail parallels the base of a high cliff from the top of which Indians in the 1880's rolled rocks on US soldiers in one skirmish at least. From the ruins of a stone cabin near the head of the inner canyon evidence of a very tall waterfall, the highest known on Lincoln National Forest, was noted. It was dry at this time. John Stockert

The second very small group on hike #2 were led by Cathy Luna of the Forest Service. This hike had a grade of 25-30 which seemed like a lot to us. Like the first group we saw many blooming plants inclidiny the ~iguiera, Polygala scoparioides) Broom Milkwort,Hibiscus denudatus (Naked hibiscus), Menodora scabra (Rough Menodora),Olive Family,~ario~a which has been especially beautiful this year,Apache Plume, Mormon Tea, Allthorn not in bloom,Zinnia grandiflora, Yucca baccata,Christmas cactus with red berries, Blackfoot Daisy, Winterfat, 4 o'clock possibly Mirabilis glabra-pink-lots of patches in bloom. White asters, Salvia pinguifolia, possible Brickellia with clusters of blossoms with purple tinge at base of the flowers. All these blooming plants plus beautiful vistas changing as we walked all along the trail. John Stockert has walked so many miles preparing his two hiking books covering the local area and out soon, that he is now considered a professional hiker.



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS/ NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
CALL FOR PAPERS

THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT LANDSCAPE
October 18-20, 1996
El Paso, Texas

This is the first call for papers for the sixth (6th) Symposium of the Native Plant Society of Texas. The society will meet on October 18-21, 1996 in El Paso, Texas. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico will participate in a joint meeting as we attempt a better understanding of the flora of the Chihuahuan Desert. This should be a most informative and enjoyable meeting.

We will accept papers on an "expanded" Chihuahuan Desert landscape for the Symposium. There are several maps of this entity based on climate, flora, fauna and the impressions of many workers such as Lyman Benson, James Henrickson, Marshall Johnston, David Moraflka, Robert Schmidt, Forest Shreve and others. These maps will differ from each other in certain technical aspects. For our purposes, we will accept papers from the entire Trans-Pecos of Texas, we would suggest that in New Mexico you accept the work of Wm. A. Dick-Peddie and in Arizona perhaps we can get papers from Judy Mielke, Jimmy Tipton and others, for the Arizona portion of the Chihuahuan Desert is rather ill defined. For those of you who are still confused, I would suggest a compromise between the maps of Judy Mielke, *(Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes*, page 12), and Sally Wasowski, *(Native Gardens for Dry Climates*, page 168).

Papers can deal with <u>anv</u> aspect of the native flora of the Chihuahuan Desert, whether in Mexico or the United States. This includes desert ecology, habitats, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ornamental landscaping, etc. You do not have to be a member of the Society to present a paper at the symposium, but you must present a written paper for publication in the proceedings in order to be eligible for an oral presentation. This is an invitation to foresters, graduate students, university personnel, farmers, ranchers, plant growers, and other naturalists.

Papers should be readable by the lay public but should still be scientifically accurate. More technical work should be presented to more scholarly journals, etc. Due to the time frame papers are not refereed. Papers should not exceed 10 pages in length double spaced, with one inch margins. You may cite literature or not, you may include a bibliography or not, as you choose. Each paper will be photographically reproduced, so the way you turn it in is the way it will appear in the Proceedings - keep in mind that dot matrix photographs very poorly. We reserve the right to reject those papers that are not appropriate for the subject matter of the conference. If, as anticipated, we have a full slate of speakers, it will be impossible to read your speech verbatim. Don't even try, that's what the published proceedings are for. Merely give the highlights in your talk, and perhaps a few slides or overheads.

Abstracts are not required, but when you submit your paper (original + one) please include a short bio so we can introduce you properly at the Symposium, and remember please: <u>no paper - no talk.</u>

The original and one copy must be in the state office (P.O. Box 891, Georgetown, TX 78627) by September 10, 1996. For further information contact the NPSOT at (512) 863-9685.

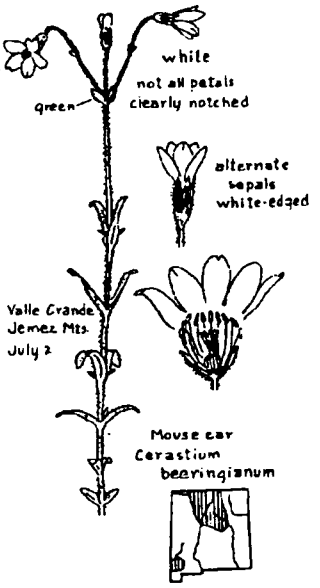
Flowering Plants of New Mexico, third edition, by Robert DeWitt Ivey

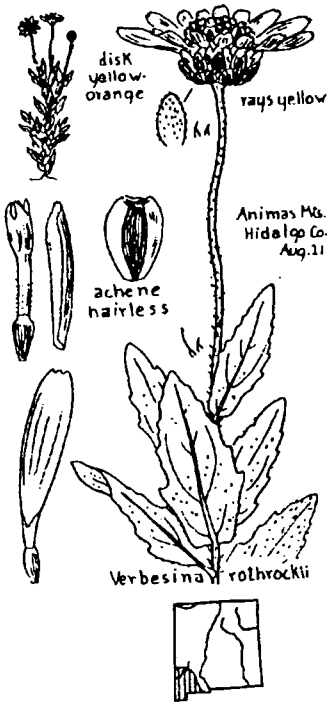
book review by Tim McKimmie

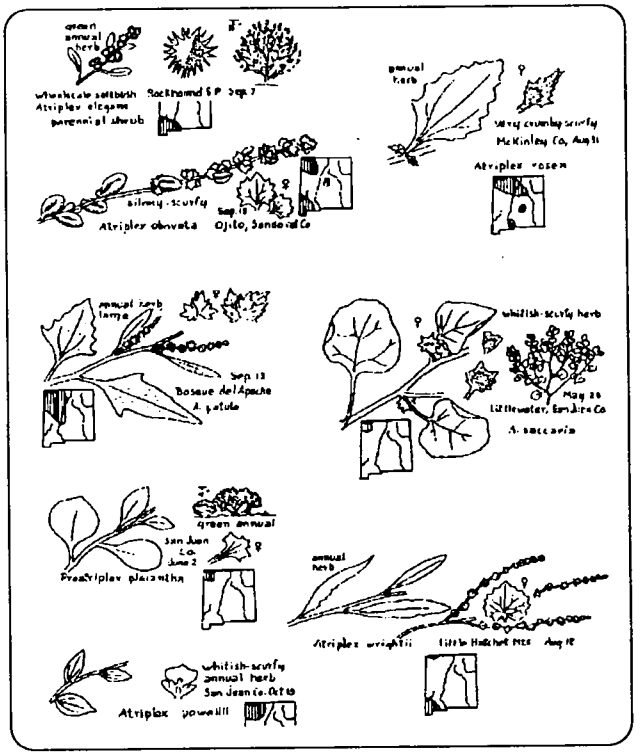
The latest edition of this field guide to New Mexico plants has been expanded from 371 to 504 pages. Fortunately, it is still manageable for carrrying into the field, because for many native plant enthusiasts, Ivey's work has been a constant companion when botanizing.

Besides the inclusion of many new species, there are several modifications to earlier editions. The most notable change is the addition of range maps for each species. These should prove quite valuable in selecting between similar specics. Thc key to family is now illustrated with features of important plant parts. The section on key family characteristics is also illustrated and is useful for confirmation of plant family. The introduction also contains a section on edible plants and a new section expressing the author's concern over the effects of population growth on native plants and habitats.

Many of the plant names have been revised to reflect recent name changes. Much of the new material comes from the author's trips to the southwest corner of the state, particularly near the Animas and Peloncillo mountains. Some genus' such as *Atriplex* now have a whole page of species for comparison. The work is arranged by family name, although a few of the families are out of the alphabetical order. This book is a "must have" for anyone who really wants to get to know the native plants of New Mexico. For the beginner, other works arranged by flower color may be more appropriate. When amateur botanists get beyond the beginner stage, however, and start to learn family characteristics, they will need to progress to a work such as this arranged by family. The line drawings are superb and some users color the drawings themselves. Available from Lisa Johnston, our book sales representative, (505) 748-1046, 1814 W. Currier, Artesia, NM 88210.







BRIEF NOTES

** The NMSNM membership list has recently passed the 500 mark.

** NPSNM members Ellen Wilde and Bev Grady were the subjects of feature articles in the "Home/Style" section of the Sat. Nov. 4 *Albuquerque Journal*. Both articles focused on using penstemons for NM landscapes.

** NPSNM vice president Jean Dodd has forwarded to NM Governor Johnson information regarding President Clinton's directive to use native plants for landscaping at federal government buildings. It is hoped that the Governor will issue a similar directive for state of NM building grounds.

** The NPSNM has recently donated a set of framed "Wildflowers of New Mexico" posters to be hung in the Sate Capitol Building in Santa Fe

** Authors Sally and Andy Wasowski will lecture and sign their newest book on Sunday, Feb. 4, 1996 12:00 noon at Walden Books, Mesilla Valley Mall in Las Cruces. The couple have written several books on landscaping with natives including "Requiem for a Lawnmower" and "Native Gardens for Dry Climates".

Native Gardens for Dry Climates

by Sally and Andy Wasowski, Clarkson Potter, 1995

Book Review by John Freyermuth

This book, which covers 7 vegetation zones in warm, dry regions of the Southwest U. S. and northern Mexico, is designed for homeowners who desire to use native plants as an alternative to landscapes which require costly maintenance and large amounts of water, or as an alternative to what is termed "the gravel nightmare". Throughout, the text is accompanied by attractive, glossy color photographs. The preface emphasizes that the book is intended to serve the average reader by introducing a selection of native plants that are showy, easy to grow, and readily available from commercial growers. The author cautions that some non-native dryland plants may do so well that they may invade and destroy native habitats; one would do better by selecting local native plants. However, the book often contradicts this concept by picturing examples of non-native plants growing among the indigenous plants. Further contradictions occur regarding water use when mention is made of drought-tolerant plants whose appearance is improved by additional watering..

The 7 vegetation zones are described in the introduction. Only Zone 7, the Chihuahuan Desert, is found in New Mexico. The other 6 zones are found in Southern Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada, Western Sonora, and Baja California.

The main text consists of two parts. Part One, entitled "Creating the Garden", describes various options available to the homeowner. Included are descriptions of the "envelope garden" and plans for several types of courtyard gardens. However, all of the pictured examples of these gardens are from Southern Arizona or Southern California. The one exception on page 28 is from Las Cruces. But even this photo shows a non-native saguaro, a bird-of-paradise (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*), a century plant, an "orange tree", which looks like an apricot tree, and "*Ambrosia convertiflora*", growing amongst plants which are indigenous to the vicinity of Las Cruces. In the book's defense, such jumbles of plants are found in nearly every so-called "native-plant" garden. Also, gardens depicted in any book on landscaping with native plants hopefully appear natural, but they are always artificial. Any gardening is an artificial activity, and natural areas should be left untouched. Most people in the Southwest own property upon which the natural habitat has been harmed or destroyed by some form of past human activity. Growing indigenous plants in our gardens may be looked upon as revegetation projects with a local, naturalistic appearance. The benefits of this artificial activity to the homeowner are hopefully an increased appreciation of native plants, natural habitats, and ecology, in addition to the cost and maintenance benefits.

The book contains tips and instructions for planting and maintenance of the garden. The second part of the text is devoted to profiling over 150 selected plants. The profiles contain helpful information such as which vegetation zones are suitable, the plant's native habitat, recommended soils, amounts of water and sun, ornamental value, and information on related species. Color photos of the plant are found adjacent to each profile.

Appendices include plants listed by moisture preference, and by city (Las Cruces is included); a map of vegetation zones; a directory of nurseries, botanical gardens and other information resources; a bibliography and an index.

***Note. The authors will appear in February in Las Cruces; see page 7 of this *Newsletter*.

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico
1105 Circle Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

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