Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

January/February 1998 Volume XXIII Number 1

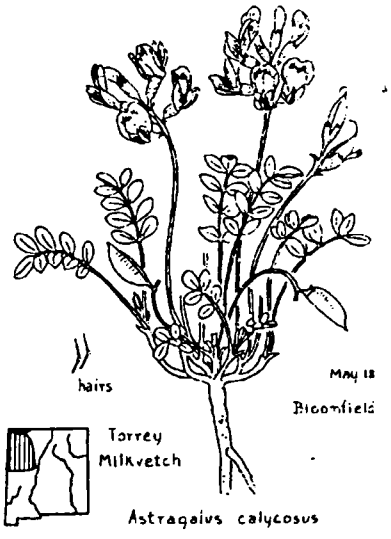
1997 Annual Meeting in Gallup

Seventy-three members of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and their families and guests gathered in Gallup for a lively Annual Meeting. We were welcomed warmly by our hosts, members of the Plateau Sciences Society and the local NPS members Loline Hathaway and Audrey Schuurmann. This summer and fall had been marked by generous rains, and driving into Gallup from all directions was a visual treat. Meeting organizers held their breaths that field trips could go on as planned - there had been floods and washouts the weekend before our meeting!

Registrants were asked to select from field trips to three uniquely different areas: El Morro National Monument to the SE of Gallup; a Zuni Mountains excursion just west of the Continental Divide, and a Chuska Mountains tour north into the Navajo Reservation. About 16 persons took advantage of the optional Friday morning trip to the "Oldest Trees" organized by El Malpais National Monument Ranger Leslie DeLong and Sheila Brewer of the Plateau Sciences Society.

The El Morro excursion was led by Jack Carter, our V-P and member of the Gila Native Plant Society. John Lujan, Superintendent of El Morro welcomed us and introduced us to the unique cultural and geologic features of the area. Everyone had a chance to survey the plants and complete a hike to the ruins on top before the thunder showers began. The Zuni Mountain field trip was led by Bob Sivinski and DeWitt Ivey; we toured a rich stream bank area in the Cibola National Forest adjacent to Quaking Aspen Campground and McGaffey Lake. After lunch they led us on the trail from Red Rock Canyon State Park to Church Rock where we found rare and endangered species such as *Astragalus micromerius*. Those persons who chose the Chuska Mountain trip traveled with Daniele Roth, biologist with the Navajo Natural Heritage Program, to an area north of Window Rock around Lake Asaayi. The Sunday morning tour of the P and M McKinley Coal Mine with Frank Rivera, the mine's environmental specalist, was the final scheduled event of the meeting; the strip mining for coal has been followed with a complex revegetation operation that restores the area's appearance and productivity using mostly native plants and grasses.

Authors Gail Tierney and Bill Dunmire presented a wonderful illustrated lecture after our evening banquet Saturday entitled, "Wild Plants and Native Peoples" based on their two recent books, Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province and Wild Plants and Native Peoples of the Four Corners. After the banquet the authors responded to questions and autographed their books.



The officers of the NPS-NM hope that all left the meeting with a greater knowledge of the plants and peoples of the Gallup area. Many persons attending took advantage of the area to attend the exhibit "Woven by the Grandmothers", a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian about 19th Century textiles that opened the new Navajo Museum, Library and Cultural Center in Window Rock. Others were able to visit the Mission Church at Zuni to see the Shalako murals. The NPS-NM officers express our thanks to the generosity and courtesy of members of the Plateau Sciences Society of Gallup for making arrangements for these special events and tours. The officers and the volunteers of the PSS took care of the registration table, helped plan the field trips, run the Silent Auction, staffed the information table, produced the bookmarks and supplied flowers for the banquet table decorations, and helped in many other ways to make our meeting a success. And my special thanks to Carol Milligan for coordinating the volunteers and designing the handsome program.

Mary Whitmore

Inside....

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

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. Original 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. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the 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 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 local information.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost $50 per year.

Membership Fees

Dues are $12.00 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, NPSNM, POB 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5917

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 February 1.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE: Our main address is: NPSNM, POB 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502-5917. See above for membership and newsletter correspondence.

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Poster Chair: open

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OLIO BOTANICA
SEXUAL OLIO IN BOTANY

ARK

reprinted from "Douglasia: the Newsletter of the Washington Native Plant Society", 21(4):14

Fred Weinmann and I offer readers an "Alphonse and Gastone Act", each bowing to the other in these columns. **Fred's** last column on the earthiness of **Erasmus Darwin** gave me food for thought. Grandfather Darwin's flowery verse, with its allusions to the sexual mores of plants brings to my mind the "Terms of Endearment" that we botanists attach to the reproductive processes in plants.

In the Summer '97 issue of *Douglasia* we embarked on a journey into the arena of subsexual reproduction (pp. 22-23); these deviations from "normal" outbreeding culminate in the most incestuous of all ways to make progeny: *Apomixis* (without sex). That diversion begs for a discourse on the many ways plants achieve regular sexual reproduction. A most arcane terminology has evolved to identify where the organs of sexuality (stamens and pistils) are "housed" (oikos - house in Greek). The vast majority of flowering plants have stamens (maleness) and pistils (femaleness) in the same flower. This is traditionally called the *perfect* condition. When the flowers lack either male or female parts the flower is called *imperfect*. These two words are rather "holier than thou", as though the *imperfect* state is a cut below the *perfect*. Newer synonyms have come into being for these quaint Victorian-sounding terms. For *perfect* substitute CONSEXUAL, even better than *bisexual*. For *imperfect* try UNISEXUAL. The *unisexual* mode, though much less common in the flowering plant world, has a modest following. Several plant families have unisexual members (even entire genera). Unisexuality comes in two costumes: male and female flowers on the same individual (like most conifers, all the oaks, alders and hazel). This is called the *monoecious* condition (*mono* = one and *oecious* = oikos or household). Indeed, all the members of the oak family (Fagaceae) and the birch family (Betulaceae) are monoecious. Its unisexual opposite is even less common; unisexual flowers on separate individuals—the *dioecious* condition. The most familiar examples in our flora are the Indian plum *(Oemleria cerasiformis)*, buffalo berry *(Shepherdia canadensis)* and the entire willow family (Salicaceae—*Populus* and *Salix)*. This infrequent mode of sexuality in plants is, of course, the reigning sexuality in animals. Yes, animals are dioecious, yet the term is never used for animals. So conventional! We are tempted to embark on the saga of how the diverse kinds of sex came into being. What came first in evolution: consexuality or unisexuality? How does a unisexual seedling "know" if it is going to be male or female, and how does it develop the right sex? These are still lively topics in plant reproductive biology. But another time for these matters, should a reader insist!

The last-posed question has a good, though partial answer for animals. Sex is determined in part by the sex chromosomes: XX is female, and XY is male. These sex chromosomes can be visibly distinguished in the chromosome complement of animals. Are there sex chromosomes in dioecous plants? Yes, but only a minority possess them. Two common herbaceous aliens in our flora have XX and XY chromosomes: the common campion *(Lychnis dioica* or *Silene dioica)* and that pesky weed, sheep sorrel *(Rumex acetosella)*. Other dioecious plants, like Indian plum and willows, make males and females without visible sex chromosomes.

Let me finish this orgy of sexuality terms with two more, *polygamous* and *polygamodioecious*. In animal societies, polygamy is the state of affairs where the male has more than one wife. But in plants it refers to the versatile condition where one and the same individual plant has unisexual and consexual flowers. Polygamodioecious plants go a step further; they are dioecious species but a male plant will have both male flowers and consexual flowers while a female plant bears female flowers and consexual ones. Had enough of this arcane olio?

MORE OLIO LAWS IN BIOLOGY ARE THERE ANY?

ARK

reprinted from "Douglasia: the Newsletter of the Washington Native Plant Society", 21(4):14

In the world of physics and chemistry, fixed laws are common and seldom violated. Take Boyle's Law for gases, Ohm's Law for electricity and Newton's Law of gravity; they seem absolute. But in biology absolutes are rare to non-cxistent. So rather than laws, expect rules or principles to be espoused. My favorite is Baker's Rule ("as a rule", says Herbert Baker): pioneering plants are, as a rule, self-compatible. To be the first individual on an island and succeed, the colonizer better be consexual and self-fertile. Taxonomists consider the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature thc code-book for the practice of taxonomy. Thus their Law of Priority: The earliest legitimately published name for a plant shall be the correct binomial, replacing a later, often well-used, name. Our Indian plum is a good example: *Osmaronia* had to be rejected in favor of the earlier *Oemleria*. There are rules, dicta and principles in most fields of biology. My favorite in ecology is Hardin's Law: "We can never merelv do one thing". Another ecological verity is the Law of Competitive Exclusion. "No two related species can coexist in the same place (habitat) and use the same resources (niche)." All these biological verities have their exceptions. G **Ledyar Stebbins,** preeminent evolutionary biologist, gives us the ultimate biological law: "The most universal law in Biology is that there is an exception to every law!"

CALENDAR

LAS CRUCES

NPS BOARD MEETING
Feb. 21, Seviletta LTER, 10 am-4 pm.

The **nominating committee for the 1998 elections** will be Jack Carter (Gila) chair, Mary Goodman (Santa Fe) and John Stockert (Otero). Please contact them about your availability or if there is someone you would like to nominate for an office or for the Board.

Sat. Feb. 28th. Highway Cleanup. 10 am at the cleanup site on Main St. or St. James Church, University and Main.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford

On September 21st, Herb Ruetzel led six members on a field trip to a small canyon with a dry wash on the northfacing slope of the Dona Ana Mountains. John Freyermuth's comprehensive lists noted that 80 taxa were identified on this trip. When combined with his notes of the September 1996 trip to the same area, there are now a total of 103 different taxa on record. Examples of the flowering plants noted on this trip were: purple flowering Heath Carlowrightia, yellow flowering Snakeweed, yellow flowering Slender Spineaster, white flowering Blackfoot Daisy, yellow flowering Giant Goldeneye, yellow flowering Annual Goldeneye, yellow and gold flowering Plains Zinnia, yellow flowering Western Wallflower, yellow-green flowering Nailwort, blue and white flowering Whitemouth Day-flower, white flowering Rattlesnake Weed, orange flowering Narrowleaf Globemallow, dark red flowering Scarlet Spiderling, pink flowering Smooth Desert Four- o'clock, pink flowering Narrowleaved Desert Four-o'clock, yellow flowering Rough Menodora, white flowering Wright's Buckwheat, yellow flowering Linearleaf Flame Flower, blue violet flowering Little Snapdragon Vine, and dull orange flowering Warty Carpetweed. This trip found 16 species in the Sunflower Family, 7 in the Cactus Family, 6 in the Four-o'clock Family, and 5 in the Grass Family. There were several grasses which could not be readily identified by members of the group. A combined list of all taxa, including the Latin nomenclature, identified during the 1996 and 1997 field trips to the north slope of the Dona Ana Mountains is available from John Freyermuth.
On October 4th, nine members of our chapter participated in the highway cleanup of the mile assigned to the NMNPS on US Highway 80/180 south of Las Cruces. No notable native plants were observed.

During our meeting of October 8th, Paul Pirtle showed samples of Yucca fiber he had obtained after following the directions given by Dr. Hines in our September meeting. Bob Reeves gave a slide presentation entitled "Cactus within a 50-Mile Radius of the Las Cruces Area." Of the 2,000 species of cactus world-wide, New Mexico has about 40 species. Of those 40, there are 25 in the immediate Las Cruces area. The locally identified cactus are: *Coryphantha macromeris* and *scheeri; Echinocactus horizonthalonius; Echinocereus chloranthus, Coccineus, daysacanthus, fendleri* and *stramineus; Epithelantha micromeris; Escobaria sneedii, tuberculosa* and *vivipara; Ferocactus wislizeni; Glandulicacus wrightii; Mammillaria grahamii, heyderi, lasiacantha* and *meiacantha; Neolloydia intertexta; Opuntia arenaria, grahamii, imbicata, leptocaulis* and *macrocentra;* and *Peniocereus greggii.*

On October 12th, Alice Anderson led a party of five Las Cruces Chapter members on a field trip into the Valles Canyon of the Sierra de Las Uvas 25 miles north of Las Cruces. John Freyermuth's comprehensive notes show that the first stop was in an area that had been overgrazed and devoid of grasses; however, the dominant species were Honey Mesquite, yellow flowering Snakeweed, white flowering Peppergrass, and Soaptree Yucca. The five other species noted here were Twinleaf Senna, Tumbleweed, Cowpen Daisy, yellow flowering Spiny Dogweed and yellow flowering Espanta Vaqueros or Woolly Tidestromia. At the second brief stop, Alice identified several species of grasses: Vine Mesquite, Cane Bluestem, Silver Bluestem, Tobosa, Bush Muhly, Burrograss, Six weeks Grama, Annual or Sixweeks Threeawn and Bristlegrass. Other species observed at this site were Wire Lettuce, Spiny Cocklebur, yellow flowering Annual Goldeneye, yellow flowering Tarbush, Silverleaf Nightshade, Wavyleaf Thistle and yellow flowering Desert Marigold. The group then drove another 23 miles up into the Sierra de Las Uvas where they parked. They walked down into Valles Canyon where they identified nearly 140 different plants. Alice also identified several species of butterflies, other insects, birds, lizards, a long-eared owl and a rock squirrel. After descending the dry stream bed for more than two miles,the canyon narrowed until a series of verical rock walls revealed many spectacular petroglyphs. The flowering species seen in Valles Canyon were yellow flowering Annual Goldeneye, pink and yellow flowering Buckwheat, yellow flowering Snakeweed, pink flowering Penstemon, golden yellow flowering Plains Zinnia, yellow flowering Annual Goldenweed, pink flowering Wire-lettuce, red flowering Globe Mallow, white and pink f lowering Russian Thistle, pale blue flowering Blue Trumpets, yellow flowering Blanket Flower, yellow flowering Fineleaf Woollywhite, purple-red flowering Wavyleaf Thistle, yellow flowering Western Wallflower, purple flowering Tansy Aster

or Tahoka Daisy, yellow flowering Rough Goldeneye, yellow flowering Threadleaf Groundsel, white f lowering Thymeleaf Spurge, red f lowering Southwestern Paintbrush, pink flowering Santa Fe Phlox, yellow flowering Rosary Bean, white flowering Mariola, yellow flowering Chocolate Flower, yellow flowering Desert Marigold, yellow flowering Rough Menodora, white flowering Blackfoot Daisy, yellow and red flowering Hog Potato, yellow flowering Wright' s Matchweed, yellow flowering Paper Daisy, yellow flowering Abert ' s Dome, white flowering Apache Plume, white flowering Rattlesnake Weed, purple blue flowering Little Snapdragon Vine, rose purple f lowering Purple Mustard, red-violet flowering Velvet Umbrellawort, white flowering Oblong-leaved Brickellbush, cream-white flowering Cut-leaf Brickellbush, cream-white flowering California Brickellbush, yellow flowering Greenthread or Hopi Tea, white f lowering White Prairie Clover, gray-white f lowering Louisana or White Sage, pink flowering Narrow-leaved Desert Four-o ' clock, purple flowering Wild Morning Glory, orange and red flowering Flax, and purple-blue flowering Dark Milkwort. The following butterflies were identified by Alice in Valles Canyon: Variegated Fritillary, Sister Butterfly, Leafwing Butterfly, Checkered Skipper, Patch Butterfly, Monarch Butterfly, Mexican Yellow, Black Swallowtail, Dainty Sulphur and Dog's Head Butterfly. A comprehensive list of plants, including Latin nomenclature, observed on this trip is available from John Freyermuth.

On November 5th, twenty chapter members enjoyed a potluck dinner at the Southwest Environmental Center.

Wildflowers for Thanksgiving?

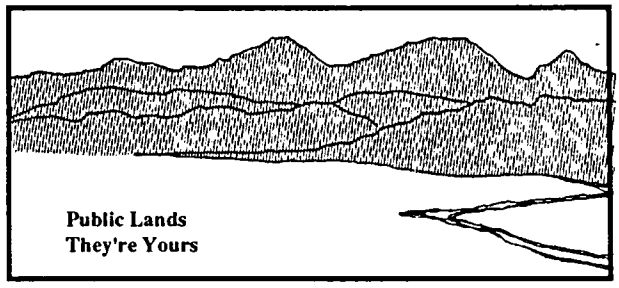
A few late bloomers might be expected to occur at the end of Novermber in New Mexico but 24 species in flower? That's right! NPSNM member Alice Anderson traditionally leads a Sierra Club trip to the Big Hatchet Mountains the weekend after Thanksgiving. This year, 8 people including NPS member Tim McKimmie and folks from El Paso and Santa Fe took part in this three day trip. Although the fall had been warm there had been a few light frosts and the display of wildflowers was unexpected. The following plants were in flower on Nov. 29, 1997 in Sheridan Canyon in the Big Hatchet Mtns.. *Rhus virens, Cirsium* sp, Apache plume, *Dyssodia* sp., *Solidago* sp., *Senecio douglasia, Parthenium* sp. (herbacious), Viguiera sp., *Macromeria, Anisicanthus thurberi., Eupatorium* sp., *Stephanomeria exigua, Melampodium leucanthum, Sphaeralcea* sp., *Rhus microphylla* (also appeared to be breaking bud), *Polygala* sp., paper flower, *Trixis californica, Guteriezza* sp, *Gnaphalium, Erysimum,Dalea formosa, Brickellia* sp., and *Baileya multiradiata* (later along the road). Off hand comments regarding global warming were overheard of course. Maybe we could benefit from Christmas counts similar to those done by birders.

Notes

The New England Wildflower Socicty has seed available for "woodlands, wetlands, and meadow gardens" perhaps suitable for some sites in Northern NM. For a copy of the 1998 Seed and book Catalog send $2.50 to **Seeds**, New England Wildflower Society, Garden in the Woods, 180 Hememway Rd., Framingham MA 01701.

The most recent text of the **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature** from the Tokyo convention is available at: www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/iapt/nomenclature/code/tokyo-e/

I plan to reprint our **list of native plant suppliers/nurseries** in the next issue. Please send me any corrections/additions your may have.
Tim



editors note: the following article is related to recent efforts by NPSNM to evaluate our priorities and plan for our future.

NNNPS Survey Reveals Priorities, Needs, and Contributions From a Diverse Membership—

by Jan Nachlinger and Janet Bair
reprinted from the NNNPS NEWSLETTER Vol. 23. No. 9 November 1997

First and foremost, a generous thank you to the diverse group of almost 70 individuals who took the time to respond to the 1997 NNNPS membership survey. The responses provide a wealth of information on interests, needs, contributions, and overall priorities for the society to better plan our future activities. Responders characterized themselves (in order of greatest percentages) primarily as professionals in botany (or related area), knowledgeable amateur botanists, enthusiasts, beginners, and gardeners/landscape planners. By far and away the number one reason for joining the group was to learn about Nevada's native plants, while the distant second reason was to participate in the field trips. Certainly, our field trips are a fun way to learn about Nevada's native plants, so be assured that we will continue to offer a wide selection of field trips with even greater themes than presented in the past. That's because we learned, for example, members would like more opportunities to learn about how to collect seeds for our seed exchange .

Perhaps the most interesting revelations from the survey came from the section on what members feel should be the society's priorities. The three highest priorities selected include gathering data for habitat preservation, researching specific plants at risk, and supporting local habitat restoration projects. Clearly, the membership is very much oriented toward plant conservation priorities. The next three moderately high priorities selected indicate a bent toward educational priorities: publishing the society's journal *Mentzelia* and our Occasional Papers, keeping members informed about hot native plant issues, and researching related land management practices (timber and grazing. The written-in responses on other educational priorities were numerous and varied from using the newsletter, social activities, grammar school programs, and field trips as opportunities for education on native plants to specific educational topics of focus including plant conservation, ecology, desert gardening, and uses of native plants. It was very enlightening to see a number of responses interested in advocacy activities by the society as a whole, yet few members described themselves as environmental advocates. And, from a different perspective, several members felt that the society should not be taking part in activities that involve lawsuits, political causes, and activities that would jeopardize our credibility as an informed and non-biased body or our non-profit status.

A great number of suggestions for additional activities, how members could contribute to the group, appreciations and thanks for current activities, and desires to become more involved in the NNNPS were expressed by responders to the survey. The Board of Directors has already held one meeting to discuss additional activities for the society and, with time, members shall see some of their suggestions being implemented by the group and specific committees. We especially appreciate those of you that have offered your time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the society. Thanks again.

NPS Board Meeting Summary for September 12, 1997

The Board Members met on Friday before the Annual Meeting in Gallup. All members were present except for Tim McKimmie, Publications Chair. We regretfully accepted the resignations of Board member Mary Helen Brunt, Carlsbad and Ellen Wilde, Santa Fe, State Poster Chairman. Both individuals will be difficult to replace. Ellen deserves thanks from every member of the Society as she was responsible for the production and sales of the two NM Wildflower posters, which contributed to the financial health of our Society. Full written reports were submitted by the Membership secretary, Mary Goodman; Treasurer (500+ members), Babs Peck ($52K balance) ; Lisa Johnson, Book sales; and Conservation chair, Dean Ricer. Information was shared about three state supported projects: the new Rare and Endangered Species Advisory Board headed by Bob Sivinski (505-982-0616); the noxious weed program headed by Mark Blakeslee (505-438-7424); and the wetlands restoration and conservation program headed by Melanie Deason (505-827-2921). Each person is available as a program speaker to chapters on request.

Members of the Board thanked the Plateau Sciences Society of Gallup for hosting our 1997 Annual Meeting. Because of the necessity of local support the following calendar is to become effective immediately. Each chapter will assume the responsibility of an annual meeting on a rotating schedule (the meeting does not have to be in the home city but in that region of the state). We will also encourage and support shared meetings and symposia on special topics. 1998 Carlsbad - NPSoT and NPS-NM shared meeting in Amarillo, Texas on October 16-18 (note: OK-NPS has also been invited to participate); 1999 Albuquerque; 2000 Las Cruces; 2001 Santa Fe; 2002 Silver City; 2003 Otero; 2004 new chapter?, or repeat cycle beginning with Carlsbad.

We are consulting with a lawyer about establishing an endowment for the NPS. We will need to revise certain parts of the current By-laws in order to be within the guidelines set by statute for non-profit organizations.

Greg Magee distributed the documentation on our project "Chihuahuan Desert Gardens Booklet". Greg and Tim McKimmie have collected most of the photographs and plant descriptions necessary. Tim has contacted a printing company for the production of the first of a series of publications for NPS-NM. We are very excited about this project. Initial expenses were funded.

The new membership brochures have been printed and distributed to all chapters. The dues represent the current $12/year figure for standard membership, and there is a space to indicate the chapter to which the member wishes to become affiliated. A portion of the dues will be rebated to the individual chapters at the end of the year. More brochures are available from Mary Whitmore or Mary Goodman as needed. Looking ahead: we will have a booth at the Festival of the Cranes, Bosque del Apache November 15 and 16. The nominating committee for the 1998 elections will be Jack Carter (Gila) chair, Mary Goodman (Santa Fe) and John Stockert (Otero). Please contact them about your availability or if there is someone you would like to nominate for an office or for the Board. Our next Board meeting will be on February 21st at the Sevilleta Refuge beginning at 10 am. Chapter representatives and interested individuals are welcome to attend the Board meeting. Agendas will be distributed in mid-January.

Mary Whitmore, NPSNM President

To the Editor:

Tim McKimmie, Editor
N.P.S.N.M. NEWSLETTER
November 6,1997

Hi Tim:

I recieved the Newsletter the other day and read through it. You guys must have had quite a session up at Sevilleta. You are commended on the neat job you are doing with the Newsletter. The various issues covered are very interesting and were obviously given much consideration. I especially like the ten Education projects discussed and arrived at. Number 3 (spreading the word about noxious weeds) has been one that has had me wondering for quite sometime, especially since so many catalogs carry and push so many exotics. Even local garden club meetings that I have attended to show slides over the years do not seem to be very aware of the exotic plant problem. on item #10 (a very good idea) "and herbalists" should be added after Native Americans.

Under Special Issues IV - "NPS should also consider supporting artists and photographers. Pay for pictures so we can use them in any projects/ programs we have." It should be noted that even after paying for the use of photos or slides you still cannot legally use them, especially for sale, publication, or duplication without the photographers written permission. Many people holding office postions in various types of organizations do not understand this. As soon as the photographer snaps the shutter that picture is his property and cannot be reproduced or copied in any way without his written permission. Unless he sells it to the buyer at a high enough price that he can sell all rights to it to the buyer, which doesn't happen very often. I like the idea about the photo contest providing that a very qualified person is picked to judge the selections, and he/she or they, should be non-members of NPSNM, and none of the entrants.

At the beginning of Special Issues II it states "Education should surely be one of NPS' more important activities" By all means. On page 4 it mentions that Alice Anderson conducted a show and tell with specimens including oleander. I immediately wondered did she happen to mention that oleander is the second most deadly plant poison in the world, so far as is known? I learned this years ago in a college class on weeds. As I believe I have mentioned before, I have always felt that oleander should be outlawed, but people continue to plant it in their yards. They are an exotic. They tend to harbor roaches, scorpions, and other undesirables, including mice. Arizona even plants them in the medians and shoulders of their new freeways. Years ago they came out with a state law declaring bindweed,(all of the morning glory family), cockleburrs, horse-nettle (purple nightshade etc.), Russian thistle (tumbleweed), and a couple of others, but not oleander, as noxious weeds.

Another thing that has puzzled me for sometime. I understand that all of the chapters use Ivey as their main reference - right? So why does each chapter send in field trip reports usingcommon names for a certain plant that is different than what is used by another chapter? Or, names not used by Ivey, or any other reference that I have. Only one or two use scientific names - occasionally. Then too if they do use scientific names they should also use the correct common name, not one they dream up. In the Las Cruces and Otero reports(what happened to the others?) there is "woven pineapple cactus", "redeye pickly cactus", "white-spined prickly pear", "brown-spined prickly pear", "pancake cactus", big needle cactus", beehive nipple cactus". Where do these names come from?? Not from Ivey. Not from Wienenger, not from Simmon & Schuster, and not from the Britton & Rose bible of cacti. I seriously doubt that someone like Dale or Alan Zimmerman would have any idea what they are.

I am curious about the "narrow-leaved name flower" and the "linearleaf flame flower". Flame flowers are, or should be, Tilinums. Would these per chance be the same as the Pinos Altos flame flower T. humile? Would they be T. calycinum? All tilinums have narrow or linear leaves so they could be the same plant seen by different people in different ares. Narrow-leaved and linearleaf are rather reduntant. Ivey only shows T. pulchellum.

Tohoka daisy, cylinder bells, all of the above cacti, thornless acacia, whitemouth dayflower, chalice cup, - none of these are in Ivey and I have never heard of them before. I wonder - is the whitethroat dayflower the occassional white morph of the common blue dayflower? There are only two species in the state and none are given as white-throat. Some fail to capitalize the genus name, as it should always be, and some capitalize species names as they never should be. The comment is made that at City of Rocks you must stop and pay. This should be no surprise as there has been a fee to enter all state parks for several years now.

I wonder about the "wavy leaf x Gray oak cross. Where was this found and who identified it as such? The only place that I have found wavy-leaf oak in the Black Range is along the road in Devils Backbone and it is not a hybrid according to Jack Carter. Then too how come no scrub oaks, Q turbinella were reported? They are the most common throughout the area.

I am curious too as to where the "mountain figwort" was found in the Black Range. The Black Range is the only place that Mimbres figwort, Scrophularia macrantha is found. I have not found what might be "mountain figwort~ there. I did find what 1 would consider the common figwort, maybe mountain, over on the road to Sunspot a few years ago. I wonder if this is what they found?

Hey Tim, I hope this doesn't get anybody ticked off, but it does make the point about people's use, or misuse, of common names. Names that maybe they give to suit there needs, or to describe the plant as they see it. Besides, as I say several times, they get my curiosity up, and they can also be confusing. There are several of them that I would liked to have seen and photographed. How is the bird situation down Cruces way? Take care and have some good counts.

So long,
Ralph A. Fisher, Jr.
Silver City, N. M.

A Look at *Linum* and Linen

By Susan Erwin
(Reprinted from Sage Notes, a publication of the Idaho Native Plant Society, May 1994)

Linum lewisii is one of nearly 100 species in the genus *Linum*, a member of the flax family (Linaceae). Members of this family may be found throughout the world in both hemispheres, and may be one of the most important vegetable fibers from the standpoint of widespread and continuous usage. Most of us know it as that pretty yet frustrating blue perennial that drops its petals when picked and opens only a few blossoms at any one time.

Although found throughout the world, in North America, flax species are common in the west and midwest in dry, sunny habitats with well-drained soils. Flowers can be white, blue, yellow, or red. Petals stay on the plant for only a short time after blooming. Blue flax is a handsome plant commonly used as an ornamental in landscape gardening.

In the west, prairie flax was first described by Meriwether Lewis near the Continental Divide in Montana on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It has been written that Native Americans used the plant in baskets, mats. snowshoes, fish nets, strings, and cords. Flax species in general are considered poor to fair as livestock forage. Some species are poisonous to livestock, containing cyanide compounds in the seeds.

The European species of flax, *Linum usitatissimum*, was imported and widely cultivated by the early American colonists, and later on the prairies as Americans headed west. Diminishing supplies of imported textiles in the early 17th Century necessitated growing flax in the colonies to provide fiber for weaving textiles. The Massachusetts General Court ordered boys and girls to be taught to spin, and families to grow a certain amount of flax each year, or pay a fine!

The first true linen industry started in the early 18th Century in New Hampshire by Scottish-Irish immigrants. Linen textiles were considered a status symbol during that time and continue to be considered a finer quality fabric. By the 19th Century. production of linen shifted from hand weaving and spinning to factories and automated machines. The transition to automation was slow in coming because of the difficulty in processing flax's brittle fibers. Eventually, cotton replaced linen as the fiber of choice because it was easier to process and was more readily available.

Linen requires approximately one year from seed-sowing to finished product. More labor intensive than cotton or wool, linen garments last just as long and actually improve with age and wear. Processing involves drying the plants, then beating them to separate the inner pith from the woody fibers. These fibers are then carded, combed, and spun in much the same way that wool is processed. Other uses for flax are linseed oil from the seeds and as a medicine for inflammation, coughs, ulcers, and burns.

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