

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

July/August 1987

Volume XII No. 4

CALENDAR

- July 25 OTERO Home of Thomas and Nelia Perea, Cox Canyon. Meet 10:00 am at parking lot of Cloudcroft Medical Center. Bring picnic lunch.
- July 26 SANTA FE Phyllis Hughes will lead us on a drive up Chicoma Mountain, north of Espanola. Meet P.E.R.A. parking lot at 9:00 am.
- August 8 SANTA FE Trip to the Plant Materials Center at Los Lunas for tour by Lisa Johnston. Meet P.E.R.A. parking lot at 9:00 am. NOTE: ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER MEMBERS, WHY NOT JOIN IN ON THIS TOUR?? MEET THE SANTA FE CHAPTER AT LOS LUNAS ABOUT 11:00 AM.
- August 9 LAS CRUCES fieldtrip to Aguirre Springs. 8:00 am at Pan Am Center.
- August 12 LAS CRUCES Program to be announced. 7:30 pm Rm 190, Ag. Bldg. NMSU
- August 29 LUCILLE WILSON'S BIRTHDAY-- OTERO CHAPTER meet at Sierra Blanca ski area at 10:00 am.
- August 30 SANTA FE Ellen Wilde will lead tour up Sandia Crest to see wildflower meadows. Meet P.E.R.A. parking lot at 9:00 am. NOTE: ALBUQUERQUE MEMBERS TAKE NOTE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MIMI HUBBY IN SANTA FE AT 983-1659 1659
- September 6 LAS CRUCES fieldtrip to Animas Canyon and Caballo Lake. 7:00 Pan Am Center parking lot.
- September 9 LAS CRUCES "Flowers of the South Pacific" by Susan and Zeno Wicks. Ag. Bldg, 7:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things have really been exciting for the Native Plant Society. The Southwestern Native Plant Symposium went very well. There were many good speakers and we had 150 participants. Thanks go to the symposium committee and the volunteers for a job well done. If you couldn't attend the symposium, copies of the proceedings will be available from the Society. Cost \$20.00.

Another exciting note is that Judith Phillips' book Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants is now available. This is a great book for our area and we think Judith did an outstanding job. Check out the list of other books that the Society is offering.

Operation Wildflower is again holding a workshop, August 3-4 at the Holy Cross Retreat in Mesilla Park. Contact Mrs. Robert Crawford for registration materials (Address: 2035 W. Amador Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001).



1987 NPS-NM OFFICERS

President--Lisa Johnston
Vice President--Tom Wootten
Recording Secretary--Dovie Thomas
Treasurer--Jean Dodd
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CHAPTER CONTACTS

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Newsletter Editor

Susan Wachter, 2500 Norment Rd. SW, Albuquerque, 87105 (873-2993)

CHAPTER REPORTS

The Otero Chapter had a busy Spring and as the result comprise the entire Chapter Report. Ed.

Some of the Otero members walked around parts of Guadalupe Mountains National Park the weekend of May 29-31. We stayed at Pine Springs Campground where we found that the Guadalupe fog is apt to roll-in in the morning. We explored trails around the campground and took two hikes—one to Smith and Manzanita Springs and the other to the Pratt House in McKettrick Canyon. We highly recommend all of the above trips.

The most wildflowers were found on the Smith-Manzanita hike which included a stop at a lovely, tree shaded pond complete with maidenhair ferns and violets (not in bloom). Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hayes (Lincoln Nat'l. Forest) and their son took us on the McKettrick Canyon hike. Mike, Jr., now 4 years old, led the hike more noted for gorgeous scenery than specific flowers. Our thanks to the Hayes family and to Roddy Davila at the Frijole Information Station who furnished us with a list of blossoms she had noticed in May and keyed out plants that we did not know. Two of the plants that caught our eye were the beautiful New Mexican Feather Grass—Stipa neomexicana and the Pine Leaf Vervain—Verbena perennis, a short many branched plant with small blue or sometimes lavender flowers along the stems. A list is being compiled of the plants we saw along the roadsides and at the park if anyone is interested in a copy, let us know.

The third annual all day field trip on the White Sands Missile Range this year started under ominous skies. Fortunately the day turned out to be a beautiful day. The Army furnished a bus, driver, and "other person". After driving for some time through a rather bleak landscape we stopped at the lava beds where two years ago trees, flowers and cacti were blooming. Hardly a flower this year. Evidently our late freeze has considerably changed the blooming schedule for this spring.

Seen in bloom were peppergrass, several kinds of Phalecia, a bi-colored mustard, fleabane, Blackfoot daisy, Threadleaf groundsel, yellow wallflowers, clumps of

both lavender and pink verbena, yellow bladder pod, nama, prickly poppy, both orange and white California poppies, short mallows in orange, pink and white. The prostrate Cholla looked pretty lethal. Small Gillardias and sand Verbenas were blooming in a stretch of sand. Desert dandelion, desert Chickory, 5-needle Fetid Marigold (Dyssodia pentachaeta), and Filaree (Erodium cicutarium) were blooming. The beautiful, fragrant mustard with the bright yellow flowers, Draba neomexicana, had nearly finished blooming. The plants were more noticable for their large seed pods. Two plants, a yellow flax and an unknown with fascinating seed heads atop a slender stem, went back to Santa Fe with Phyllis Hughes and Sharon Yarborough to be keyed out by Dr. Martin. We all enjoyed having members from different parts of the state go out on trips with us.

Paul Gordon led a trip in the Capitan Mountains for the Otero Chapter 6-27-87. Mr. and Mrs. Randy Russell and their small daughter helped out, too. Randy is a Forest Ranger out of Ruidoso.

We were surprised to see how many plants were common to both that area and the Guadalupe. The Pineleaf Vervain, Verbena perennis, and the N.M. Feather Grass, Stipa neomexicana, were both there. In fact, one of the beauties of the trip was the large variety of attractive grasses including the Guadalupe needlegrass, Stipa curvifolia.

This is certainly the Year of the Yucca, Y. elata everywhere you go and the Capitans were no exception. The lovely white blossoms were everywhere. We saw more varieties of penstemon than ever before—all heights and colors, even a yellow one at the Smokey Bear Park in Capitan. One lone Penstemon ambiguus was in full blooms in the mountains.

Randy identified a small white daisy plant we have been seeing frequently as Leucelene ericoides (Ivey p. 103) and Paul identified a very green, woody plant with bright yellow flowers that was seen in the Guadalupe and Agirre Springs as Chrysactinia mexicana. A small white flower growing in

masses, even between the ruts in the road was probably Germander, Teucrium laciniatum (Ivey p. 180).

All along the roadside were lots and lots of acacias both the White thorn and the Mimosa biuncifera with its white puffs. In the same area were large patches of Zinnia grandiflora, Cassia bauhinoides (Ivey p. 186), Bitterweed-Hymenoxys scaposa (Ivey p. 127) and the lovely milkwort-Polygala alba (Ivey p. 230). There were several varieties of gaura, Gaura suffulta and G. coccinea and at least three varieties of yellow flax plus the blue flax. For some people it was the first time to see the Desert Holly with its pink blossoms (Perezia wrightii) and the wire lettuce with its delicate blossoms (Stephanomeria tenuifolia).

An interesting feature of the Capitans is the patterns of bare rock on the sides of the mountains. Randy says the Capitans are noted for their rock slides that scour off the vegetation on the way down the mountain sides.

Heading back to Capitan, the western sun highlighted the many Cholla blossoms and picked up the glistening white of the waving grasses. We truly live in a beautiful state!

Santa Fe Chapter

Join us, and bring family and friends for our summer outings to places known for their wonderful wildflowers, trees and shrubs. They should be even better this year than last, and the dates have been picked to coincide with the most interesting bloom times.

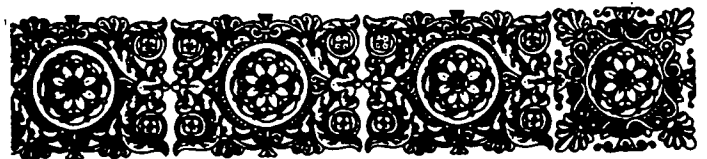
For each outing, we will meet at the P.E.R.A. parking lot at 9:00 A.M. to form carpools. Bring sack lunch and water. Call Mimi Hubby (983-1658) for further information or just come at 9:00 A.M.

Saturday July 11: Bill Isaacs will lead us on a drive (with short walks) toward Tierra Amarilla and Route 64 to Tres Piedras.

Sunday July 26: Phyllis Hughes will lead us on a drive up Chicoma Mountain north of Espanola.

Saturday August 8: Lisa Johnston, our NPS-NM president, will show us through the Plant Materials Center at Los Lunas, the site of varied native plant research. We should have time for other side stops on the way to and fro to see interesting things.

Sunday August 30: Ellen Wilde will lead us on a drive up to Sandia Crest to see the wildflower meadows.



BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

Guided Tours :

Wildflowers, Birds,

Ghost Towns

Myra McCormick (505) 538-2538

Silver City, N.M. 88061



GARDEN CLUB AWARD

from Pacific Horticulture, Summer, 1987....

Previously mycorrhizal fungi (fungi that forms a mutually beneficial association with host plants) has been shown to aid in phosphorus uptake in deficient soils and possible root-rot prevention. Recent research has shown that plants with mycorrhizal do better under drought conditions than plants without the beneficial fungi.

The New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., won second place and a \$500.00 cash grant from Operation Wildflower, a national program sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. The award was received for the first concentrated native plant design put into a highway rest stop. I hesitate to mention the rest stop as I have recently learned pedestrians have stomped most of the plants into oblivion.

BOOKS AND SHIRTS

	<u>Retail</u>	<u>NPS-NM Member Price</u>
Audubon Guide to Wildflowers, Western (Spellenberg)	13.50	10.80
Cacti of Texas & Neighboring States (Weinger)	17.95	15.40
Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mts. (Harrington)	9.95	7.95
Field Guide to SW & Texas Plants (Niehaus, etal.)	12.95	10.40
Flora of New Mexico (Wootton & Standley)	44.00	37.00
Flowering Plants of New Mexico Second Ed. (Ivey)	19.95	16.00
Flowers of the Southwestern Forests and Woodlands (Foxy)	12.95	10.40
A Garden of Wildflowers (Art)	12.95	10.40
Gathering the Desert (Nabhan)	16.95	13.60
Grasses of Southwestern United States (Gould)	8.95	7.20
How to Grow Native Plants of TX & SW (Nokes)	26.95	21.60
Jewels of the Plain (Barr)	19.95	16.00
Landscaping for Water Conservation (Johnson)	8.95	7.20
Landscaping with Texas Native Plants (Wasowski & Ryan)	23.95	19.40
Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants (Ortho)	5.95	4.80
Management of SW Desert Soils (Fuller)	7.50	6.00
New Mexico Grasses, A Vegetative Key	8.95	7.20
New Mexico Range Plants (NMSU Circular #374)	3.00	2.80
100 Desert Wildflowers in Color (Dodge)	3.50	2.80
Prairie Propagation (Rock)	3.50	3.25
Rare & Endemic Plants of New Mexico	12.95	10.40
Roadside Plants of Northern New Mexico (Tierney)	9.95	7.95
Rocky Mountain Alpines (Williams, editor)	35.00	28.75
Rocky Mountain Wildflowers (Craighead)	10.95	8.80
Seeds of Wildland Plants (Young)	24.95	21.50
Soils of the Desert Southwest (Fuller)	4.95	3.50
Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants (Phillips)	27.95	22.40
	HB	
	SB	17.95
Spring Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Summer Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Trees & Shrubs of SW Deserts (Benson & Darrow)	49.50	39.60
Trees & Shrubs of the Uplands (Elmore)	9.95	7.95
Trees, Shrubs & Vines of the SW (Vines)	52.50	42.00
The Weaver's Garden (Buchanan)	16.95	13.60
Wildflower Folklore (L. Martin)	16.95	13.60
The Wildflower Meadow Book (L. Martin)	12.95	10.40
Woody Plants of the Southwest (Lamb)	12.95	10.40
Southwestern Wildflower Notecards by Lily Byrd	5.00	4.50
8 card assortment includes: Columbine, Locoweed, Rabbitbrush, Globemallow, Yarrow, Indian Paintbrush, Coneflower and Thistle		
Native Plant Postcards by Beth Dennis (Assorted Black & white designs)	0.25	0.20
	6/1.25	6/1.00
T-Shirts	50/50 poly/cotton. Sizes: S,M,L,XL	Price: \$6.00
Sweatshirts	50/50 poly/cotton. Sizes: M,L,XL	Price: \$11.00
NPS Logo - Coneflower (Tan w/ green ink)		
10th Anniversary Design (Turquoise w/ black ink)		

Postage: Add \$.75 for each book; \$.50 for each t-shirt or sweatshirt;
\$.25 for each notecard set or 6 postcards.

Make checks payable to: NPS-NM Books, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031
Allow 3-4 weeks for shipping.

American Plants

by
Donald R. Hendricks

Whenever native plants are discussed, most people conjure visions of Indians dancing around firepits or witchdoctors shaking dried leaves over a fevered body. Why people see these images has a lot to do with the age of television, but it has little to do with the topic of native plants. Notably, native plants do include medicinal herbs used by early Americans, but they also include the plants upon which the survival of the early colonies depended.

Could those colonists have survived without the wood of native trees to heat their houses or make their fences? Could they have survived without the wildlife that lived in those forests? Could they have had the rich soils to grow their crops without the roots of hundreds of years of native plant succession adding organic matter to those soils? Native plants have influenced the standards of living in every community of the world.

For a plant in the United States to be considered native, it must meet the following criteria:

1. Be living where it is because of natural forces.
2. Be able to grow successfully and reproduce where it is without cultivation.
3. Have been identified, collected, and verified by botanists.
4. Have occurred as a native in the time period during colonization (1500-1875 A.D.).

The other types of plants found in the United States include:

Naturalized - Plants which fill all of the above requirements but are known to have escaped from plantings.

Naturalized refers primarily to plants brought by the early settlers. The dandelion, tree-of-heaven, and apple are good examples.

Escaped - Plants that are similar to naturalized but occur on smaller geographic scale, e.g., tung tree, Scotch pine, and European barberry.

Introduced - Plants that are brought intentionally from another area but grow and reproduce only by cultivation. Camellia and ginkgo are examples.


One of the ways scientists verify whether or not a plant is or has been native to a particular site is by making core samples of nearby bogs, lake bottoms, or other similar places. In most cases, pollen can be washed from the samples and identified by use of special pollen keys. These samples can yield valuable information about the plants that once lived in certain areas but have either become extirpated (still alive but not found in its original range) or extinct.

Reprinted from the September, 1986 issue of "The Columbine", Operation Wildflower Newsletter published by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mr. Hendricks is Director and Trustee of the Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio.



DROUGHT TOLERANT & NATIVE
LANDSCAPE ORNAMENTALS



BERNARDO BEACH NATIVE PLANT FARM
DESIGN & CONSULTATION

We have opened a new retail outlet in
Albuquerque at
520 MONTAÑO N.W.
1/2 blocks west of 4th St. on Montañó
open 9 to 5 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: THE NATION'S

NEWEST NATIONAL JEWEL

(from NNNPS newsletter, July, 1987)

August 15, 1987, the dedication of our nation's newest national park, Great Basin National Park, will be held. The nearly 77,000 acre park located 70 miles east of Ely, Nevada is the first new national park in the lower 48 states in 15 years.

The park's wide range of plant and animal habitats extend from the Upper Sonoran Life Zone to the frigid Arctic Alpine Tundra Life Zone.

Of special note are the Lehman Caves, highly decorative limestone caverns containing an array of unique formations developed over thousands of years by water seeping into the caves depositing the minerals. Tours of the caves are conducted daily from the Visitor Center.

A scenic drive from near the caves leads to a campground and trailhead on the northern flank of Wheeler Peak. Trails lead to an ancient bristlecone pine forest, year-round ice field or to Stella Lake. Three campgrounds located along the scenic drive offer approximately 72 camping spaces.

Backcountry hiking and camping are permitted throughout the park with mid-June through mid-October being the preferred times. Winter crosscountry skiing and camping are also permitted.

For more information please contact Park Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311.

Books Books Books

from the El Paso Native Plant Society newsletter, June, 1987....

A 575-page book titled A Practical Guide To Edible and Useful Plants, by Delena Tull, is available for \$23.95 plus \$2.00 postage from:

Texas Monthly Press
P.O. Bos 1569
Austin, TX 78767

The book is reported to be devoted to plants of Texas and the Southwest.

also from the El Paso Native Plant Society, May, 1987....

A new book on the flowers of the Llano Estacado or Staked Plan of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico is now available. Titled Wildflowers of the Llano Estacado, by Francis L. Rose and Russell W. Strandtmann, Professor and Professor Emeritus, respectively, in the Biological Sciences Department at Texas Tech University. The book consists of 141 color photographs of flowering plants, a Key of flowering plant families in the area and an annual flowering schedule. The price of the book is \$15.95 plus \$2.40 postage from:

Rose-Strandtmann
3403 Canyon Road
Lubbock, TX 79403

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Other Interested family members:

Please enclose your check payable to:

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Box 5917
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Annual Dues:
Individual & Family \$8.00
Friend of the Society \$25.00

Please send a gift membership and card to:

To better serve our membership, please check areas of particular interest.

Conservation:

- ___ Endangered species, Habitats
- ___ Restoring abused areas
- ___ Water conservation
- ___ Propagation ___ Seed Collection
- Landscaping: ___ Residential
- ___ Civic ___ Commercial ___ Highway


- Special Uses: ___ Food ___ Fiber
 ___ Medicinal ___ Dyes
 ___ Photography ___ Field Trips
 ___ Ethnobotany ___ Paleobotany
 ___ 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.)?

COWANIA vs. PURSHIA

Specializing in Flowering Natives



Dry Country Plants

Tom Wooten
(505) 522-4434

5840 N. Main
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001

BACKYARD WILDLIFE

Over 3500 American backyard gardeners have registered their gardens with the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, a project sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Three essentials for a successful backyard wildlife habitat are: cover to protect animals from the weather and predators; food, plants rich in seeds, berries or nectar; and water for drinking and bathing. Yards need not be large to attract birds and butterflies. For more information, write to Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

April/May 1986 National Wildlife Magazine

Do you have trouble telling cliff-rose from bitterbrush (Cowania stansburiana and Purshia tridentata)? Both shrubs reach from 2-3 meter tall, have similar leaves, and at first glance, the flowers are very similar. The flowers are both single rose-like, the cliffrose are cream-colored and the bitterbrush are cream-yellow and very fragrant. But this alone would not be enough for easy identification. Look to the middle of the flower and count the pistils; if 4-12 are present, then you have a cliffrose. If just 1 pistil is present, then you have the bitterbrush.

Actually the difference between the two genera may not be that simple. Recent information documenting natural hybridization between Cowania and Purshia can be found in several studies. With this information, Cowania and Purshia may be combined with Purshia persisting.

In other western states several species exist. In Martin & Hutchins, just one species of each genera is listed for New Mexico; Purshia tridentata (Prush)DC. and Cowania stansburiana Torr. also listed as C. mexicana var. stansburiana (Torr.) Jeps.

adapted in part from Northern Nevada Native Plant Society newsletter, March, 1987

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Albuquerque, NM 87105

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