



# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

# NEWSLETTER

July/August 1988

Vol. XII No 4

## NPS-NM MEMBER'S FEELING ON BLM WILDERNESS PLAN

Ted Hodoba, our conservation chairman, did an excellent job of spelling out concern about the omission of some wilderness study areas in New Mexico from the Bureau of Land Management's recommendation of areas to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. As a reminder, please reread Ted's letter on the front page of the March/April issue of our newsletter. Particularly here in southern New Mexico I feel too many areas are being passed over, again for the same reasons Ted mentioned.

The lack of release of any information or draft bills we have been expecting since last October indicates that the NM Congressional Delegation is unable to come to a consensus at this time and probably will delay releasing any information now until after the election. I understand that the main areas of difference revolve around the question of water rights for a wilderness area, increased grazing rights for livestock growers and whether or not an area once considered for wilderness and rejected can ever be reconsidered. These

are vital issues. Can you imagine a wilderness area which includes a river that suddenly becomes diverted? Grazing rights have been included by reference in the Colorado wilderness act and this is a good pattern for us to follow in our bill. Finally, when it is apparent that some decisions are to be made for other than ecological reasons, room must be left for reconsidering an area at a later date.

I sincerely hope that every NPS member will look into the wilderness proposals if you have not. This bill will have such long term effects on our state. We must communicate our concerns to our elected officials.

Tom Wooten

Address Congressmen Manuel Lujan, Dist. 1; Joe Skeen, Dist. 2; Bill Richardson, Dist. 3 at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Address Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman at Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the majority of the country suffers with severe drought, here on the eastern side of NM we've been blessed with several GOOD rains. So EVERYTHING is blooming! Summertime is a great time to explore NM and our flora is always enticing. Don't forget to take your camera and share a few good slides with NPS-NM.

The Santa Fe/Otero get-together was an exciting weekend with colorful flowers and interesting gardens.

Conservation of habitats is a paradox-to satisfy all parties involved is almost an impossibility. Several of our members follow the conservation issues closely-feel free to write to them (c/o of the Newsletter) for more details. Tom Wootton and several Las Cruces members are actively working in their area. Roger Peterson (Santa Fe) informs me that Shinnery Oak habitats near Roswell need recognition and preservation. Ted Hodoba also keeps up with conservation issues.

Check out the Xeriscape Conference August 18 and 19 in Los Alamos-contact the Extension Service in Los Alamos-for more information. Conference speakers include several NPS members (yours truly included) and it should be an informational conference.

SEE YOU IN LOS ALAMOS!!

Lisa

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is delayed a few weeks as I wanted to get to you the latest updates from the NPS Board meeting July 9th. Unfortunately about the time it came to print and paste-up, the computer went on vacation. Slave to modern devices.....

If you are having trouble receiving your newsletter or know of someone who has not received their copy, please contact our Membership Chairman, Jean Heflin, 443 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, 87122.

We give you a few months after your expired membership to renew, plus a reminder card. We hate to loose you.....please check the mailing label for expiration date.

Deadline for material for September/October issue, August 25.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

If you have questions about the NPS-NM, contact the person listed below for your area.

Albuquerque: Walter Graf  
4735 W. Lea SW  
Albuquerque, 87105  
877-6469

Las Cruces: Melanie Florence  
R.T. 1 Box 711  
Las Mesa, 88044  
525-3529

Otero: Jean Dodd  
1302 Canyon Rd.  
Alamogordo, 88310  
434-3041

Santa Fe: Mimi Hubby  
525 Camino Cabra  
Santa Fe, 87501  
983-1658

Silver City: Becky Smith  
538-5350

Portales: Lisa Johnston  
P.O. Box 142  
Portales, 88130

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LIKE BIRDS?? HEAD FOR THE SANDIAS

Suggested location for bird study include:

- Spruce-fir forest (Hudsonian Zone) try Kiwanis Meadow, Summit House Area
- Douglas-fir forest (Canadian Zone) try Capulin Springs and Tree Springs
- Pinon-juniper woodland (Upper Sonoran Zone) try Juan Tabo Canyon Area
- Riparian Habitat try Las Huertas Canyon.

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# CHAPTER REPORTS



## LAS CRUCES

Greg Magee gave an interesting talk about the plant communities of the southeastern US at our April 13 meeting. He drew a diagram of the different topographical areas in the southeast (mountain, piedmont rolling hills, coastal plain and barrier islands) and showed slides of representative plants from each area. In addition, we learned a little about the ecology of each area—for example, the distinct plants that grow on rock outcrops in the mountains and piedmont rolling hill, the fire dependent long leaf pine plant community in the coastal plains and the salt water marshes on the barrier islands. Thank you, Greg, for an appealing and pleasurable talk.

Our May 8 field trip to Carizozo Lava Flow was a learning experience. Many plant species were represented due to the diverse microclimates created by the topographic variability of the lava flow. Most shrubs were found in depressions where water collected and some sun protection was possible. Texas mulberry (Morus microphylla), Wright siltassel (Garrya wrightii), Algerita (Berberis haematocarpa), Net-leaf Hackberry (Celtis reticulata) and various ferns and unidentified herbaceous plants were found in the moister microclimates. Microhabitats were also found in the open areas, grasses and some flowers grew in wind deposited soil pockets while cacti grew on harsher sites. Other areas were black lava and devoid of plants.

California chaparral fire ecology was the subject of the May meeting. Melanie Florence explained the successional cycle that occurs after fire in this shrub community. The shrubs are adapted to fire and become dense and decadent with no reproduction after 20 years without fire. After a fire, rare herbaceous plants called fire followers appear along with shrub seedlings and sprouts. After the fire followers come the

"weedy" species which dominate the site until the shrubs become large enough to to outcompete the herbaceous plants. The cycle repeats in different ranges throughout Calif.

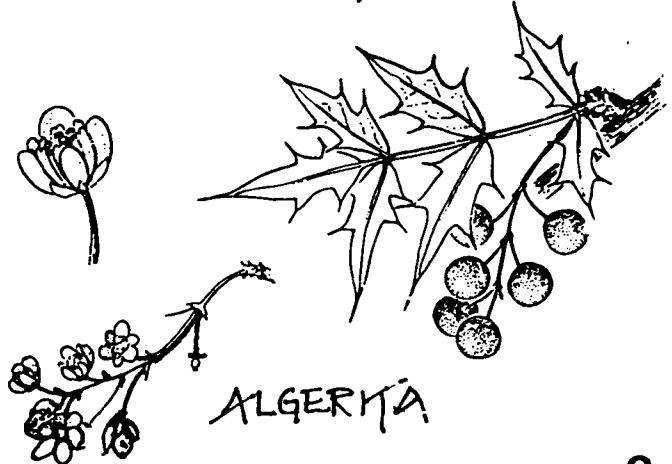
June 5 was the day for the Springtime-Luna campgrounds field trip in the San Mateo Mountains. We stopped at various places along the <sup>WAY</sup> a rest area 10 miles north of Las <sup>CRUCES</sup> rewarded us with the site of a Hog potato (Hoffmanseggia species) with a double row of petals on one side, which is most unusual. Gaillardias were flowering as were several Desert willows (Chilopsis linearis) with nearly white flowers.

The second stop was on the turnoff to Luna campground off I-25. We saw Stephanomeria species and Bahia species, typical of the mesquite and creosote bush areas. The third stop was to look at the plants growing on a rocky slope. Here we saw the largest assortment for the day; tiny Gomphrena with minute yellow flower furrounded by many white bracts, Zinnia grandiflora and Silver morningglory (Evolvulus sericeus).

The last stop was at Luna campground where we ate lunch. The drive from Luna to Springtime campground took us through many life zones. The area was very dry and few wildflowers were out.

Melanie Florence

BERBERIS HAEMATOCARPA



ALGERITA

NATIVE PLANT MYTH # 426:

"Native plants aren't subject to attack by insects." Ha! While it is true that native plants grown close to their native ecosystems are less vulnerable to fatal attacks by insects, most native plants support a wealth of 6-legged activity, some good, some bad, most if not ugly, beautiful in a rather unorthodox way.

Late last summer I noticed that a few desert Willows in a group of a dozen or so were decorated with small (2" long & half as wide) white chrysalids that looked like spun polyester (similar to row cover fabrics or sewing interfacing). After a season of mass murdering Monarch butterfly larvae due to my ignorance, I have developed an identify-before-they-die policy toward unknown garden visitors. Soon after I began observing my uninvited guests, a friend brought me similar samples and tales of specimen size trees defoliated by the voracious contents of her chrysalids.

Dr. Carol Sutherland, Bureau Chief of the Entomology and Nursery Industries Division of Agricultural and Environmental Services (NMDA, Box 3BA, Las Cruces 88003) is a tremendous resource for identifying and demystifying insect friends and foes. (I think she actually enjoys receiving the "care packages" of assorted creatures so gratefully bestowed upon her.) So I boxed up samples with some leaves in case they emerged in transit & sent them off. Here, with Carol's permission, is her reply-too much good information to keep to myself.

I think I know what is chomping your desert willows. I just happened to catch a larva in a sweep sample from desert willow a couple of years ago. Actually if I didn't watch the stuff in the net for as long as I did I would have missed the caterpillar it looked so much like plant debris. The buds and blooms have a pale green calyx that will often detach if you whack the shrub with an insect net. When one of these plant parts started moving, it caught my eye. I have enclosed a xerox of a drawing of the caterpillar. Since I didn't rear it to adulthood, I could only get it to Strymon sp. It is related to the cotton square borer, Strymon melinus; in fact, it could be the cotton square borer, since this little critter has a

broad host range. According to my sources, these little fellows like legumes and mallows, among other things. Mature caterpillars are velvety, pale green creatures about half an inch long. They play possum and retract their little heads when disturbed. If you have the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies, the description is on page 472; the photo is No 386. These are rather pretty butterflies with long, black tails and silvery gray wings. If you sprinkle the lawn early on a summer morning, these and their relatives, the pygmy blue butterflies will gather to pick up water.

Now for the \$64 question-what to do and when to do it. I'll bet that these butterflies have 2 or 3 unsynchronized generations annually. I caught my caterpillar in July and you got your pupae in September. Probably the most damaging population is the last one. I really doubt that there is any pesticide specifically labeled for desert willow. If you want to save bees, probably Bacillus thuringiensis would be your best bet; this product works best if the caterpillars are small. The problem is seeing the little rascals. By the time defoliation is pronounced, it's probably too late. If worse comes to worse, try making yourself a beating sheet. In its simplest form all you need is a 3 foot or 4 foot square scrap of white sheet (or a white canvas tarp) will do nicely. Spread the sheet out directly under the shrub that you want to study. Next, get either a good-sized stick, a piece of old broom handle or something like that and whack the branches and foliage that projects over the sheet. You will be amazed at how much stuff will fall out of a tree or shrub; living things will be easy to see as they start to wiggle on the sheet. When you see some of these little cotton square borer caterpillars, you can make a decision to treat.

If you're not too fussy about the bees or have non-blooming plants, I would experiment with Sevin WP (wettable powder), malathion or diazinon. Treat just a few plants with each spray mixture and observe the plants carefully for perhaps a week or two for signs of phytotoxicity.

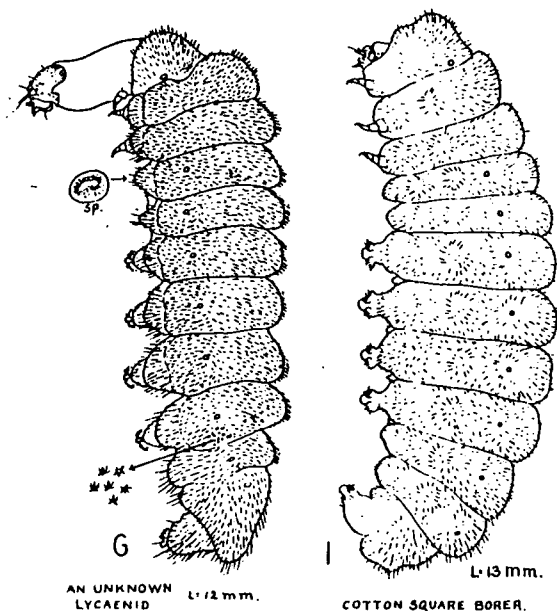
Judith P.

Diagram & Description

See Next Page.....

NATIVE PLANT MYTH # 426

(cont.)



RELATIVE ↑  
COTTON SQUARE BORER

Figure 1. *Strymon melinus* Hbn., cotton square borer or gray hair streak. F.g.l. 13-16 mm. Lateral view of a stout larva somewhat depressed and tapering toward the rounded ends. It may be bright or pale green with a darker stripe along the dorso meson. Venter is light green including the legs. The velvety appearance is due to the many setae of varying lengths on all parts of the body. Head usually retracted. In the south it is a pest on cotton, cowpeas, beans and okra. It also attacks hops, hawthorn, bush cloves, *Lespedeza*, wild aster, pepper-vine, trumpet weed, mistletoe, goatweed and many other flowering plants. Reinhard, 1929.

NMSU AG FIELD DAYS CONTINUE

Tucumcari	August 12
Los Lunas	August 24
Farmington	August 26
Artesia	September 1
Espanola	September 4
Mora	October 15

FEELING DOWN??

Tom Perea (Otero) shared this with his chapter and we share it with you,

A dandelion concoction helps alleviate gallstone, piles, warts, gout and rheumatism. It has been used for kidney and stomach disorders. The French nickname (Dente de Lion) or tooth of the lion referring to the jagged edges of the leaves.

Consider before you scoff;

Once for ounce dandelion green have 50% more Vitamin C than tomatoes. Twice as much protein as eggplant, double the fiber of asparagus, and as much iron as spinach, and more potassium than bananas.

(As in the US we spend millions every year trying to eliminate this plant from lawns-ed)



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**Silver City, N.M. 88061**

## NEW NPS CHAPTER !

The Gila Native Plant Society of Silver City is the newest chapter in the NPS-NM. The July 9 Board of Directors meeting unaminously voted to accept the Silver City chapter into NPS-NM.

We look forward to meeting the new members at our Annual Meeting October 1 and 2 at Myra McCormick's Bear Mountain Guest Ranch outside of Silver City.

Mark your calendar for this event!



### AWARDED

The Albuquerque Conervation Association (TACA) has awarded Judith Phillips' book *SOUTHWESTERN LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS* their conservation award.

We knew it is a good book, glad to see others recognize it as well.

### PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS

Please come to the Peloncillo Mountains trip October (27), 28, 29. Meet at the store of Animas on the intersection of 9 and 338 at 10:30 a.m.

### ANPS WORKSHOP

The Arizona Native Plant Society will be holding an outdoor workshop from Friday afternoon, September 2, through Monday, September 5 at the Southwestern Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History in the Chiricahua Mountains of far southeastern Arizona. Activities will include hikes, evening programs and a chance to study plants in a well equipped laboratory.

The fee is \$115.00 per person covering three nights lodging, nine meals, staff of expert naturalists, lab facilities and a learning packet. Campers will be charged a fee of \$88.00.

A deposit of \$35.00 per person will hold a space for you on a first-come basis. Balance of your fee is required by August 10. For more information call Mae Criley (602-622-3234) or Andy Laurenzi (602-622-3861).

## BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The 9 July Board meeting held in Santa Fe was quite productive.

Certificates of Recognition were given to 2 NPS members for their contribution to the society. Lucille Wilson was recognized for her year round work collecting, propagating and growing plants for the annual Otero Chapter plant sale. Nancy Hutto was also recognized for her work in maintaining the native plant book collection in the Otero Chapter area.

An exciting project in conjunction with Bosque del Apache was discussed and approved by the Board. Phil Norton of the Bosque asked NPS at the last Board meeting in January to help landscape the areas around the renovated buildings (boy, did they need the work!!) at the Bosque. NPS will supply the landscape plan and manpower to plant the areas. Plants and maintenance will be supplied by the Bosque del Apache except for seed donated by individuals or chapters. All plans have not been finalized but appear pretty clear at this time.

We envision the plantings will be a showcase for both NPS and the Bosque. We will keep you informed of further developments.

Among other items discussed at the Board meeting were the proposed botanic gardens for Santa Fe and Albuquerque as well as a 6 acre "botanic garden" planned for the old St. Pius property in Albuquerque's Uptown area. (Rumor mills report the Uptown design has been completed and will be a life-zone concept-from desert to alpine-hum)

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A new book for NPS members is Roadside Geology of NM (Retail \$9.95, NPS Member \$7.95).

Also available this fall, Fall Wildflowers, the third book of the series by Martin and Hutchins. Price not yet confirmed.

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ATTENTION: ALBUQUERQUE NATIVE PLANT GARDENERS

DEAR NPS-NM.....

As part of the petroglyph preservation project, a proposal has been made that properties adjoining the petroglyphs be landscaped in "southwestern" style. Of course the "southwestern" style is now recognized as 3 tons of rock, a yucca and a Finon. The resulting hue and cry from property owners and developers is understandable.

When "southwestern" was redefined as native landscaping, one developer replied that native plants only live a few years. Of course developers want to continue planting bluegrass and cottonwood trees on the mesa.

What The Albuquerque Conservation Association needs is names, addresses and pictures of landscapes in the Albuquerque area utilizing native plants. Judith Phillips is helping on this project and is willing to come photograph home and commercial landscapes. If you have or know of native plants being used, please contact Judith-ASAP. Drop here a note at Bernardo Beach Native Plants, 520 Montano NW, Albuquerque, 87107 or call her at 345-6248-leave a message on her machine if you miss her.

You might also write a letter to Senator Pete Domenici regarding this issue. No doubt the native plant people are in a minority when compared to turf grass growers, landscapers and others who do not understand native plants and still consider them "weeds".

I am currently residing in Lesotho as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer working with a German development project; however, I am a native New Mexican by birth and currently by heart. My background is in horticulture, but here in Lesotho part of my duties is to manage a nursery for propagating trees which we use in various land reclamation activities.

Lesotho is a tiny Kingdom which is surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The topography varies from mountainous to lowland foothills, thus difficult to cultivate for crop production. The soils have been depleted of organic matter and nutrients. With the increasing population pressure, land unsuited for cultivation is being used. Soil erosion approaches or is already beyond controlling in many areas. The climate is temperate; cold winter with summer rainfall which varies annually from 0 to over 25 inches. The information which I received your address was from Judith Phillips' book Southwestern Landscaping With Native Plant.

We have had good success with Robinia neomexicana and Chilopsis linearis here in Lesotho. With this in mind we would appreciate any information and/or a list of available seeds from your organization. Thank you for your time and effort.

Stephen Hine  
c/o MRDP  
P.O. Box 988  
Maseru 100, Lesotho  
Southern Africa

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Other interested family members:

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  - 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.)?

# CALENDAR

Santa Fe

- July 24 Drive to Chicoma Mountain lead by Phyllis Hughes. Meet at P.E.R.A 9:00 a.m.
- August 7 Car Tour to visit sites in Jemez Mountain area, meet 8:30 a.m. at P.E.R.A. lot.
- August 20 or 21 Tentative trip to Pecos River area call 983-1658 for more information.
- September 21 7:30 p.m. St John's College, meeting with R. DeWitt Ivey's slide and talk on native plants.

Las Cruces

- August 7 Field Trip to Oliver Lee State Park 7:00 a.m.
- August 10 Meeting: Greg Magee, "Plant Comunitis of the Southeastern United State"
- September 11 Field Trip to Blue Mesa, 8:00 a.m.
- September 14 Meeting: "The Cut Flower Industry" with Raldan Trujillo, guest speaker from Flores de New Mexico
- October 9 Field Trip to White Sands Natl. Mon. 8:00 a.m.
- October 12 Meeting: "Medicinal Plants" by Jan Meissner

Alamogordo

- July 30 Monument Canyon fieldtrip Meet at 10 a.m. at the Lodge in Timberon. Trail to Monument Canyon Waterfall about 1 1/2 miles. Bring lunch.
- August 11, 12, 13 Otero County Fair. Please Everone Help. Contact Lucille Wilson or Nancy Hutto
- August 26 Camp at Caballo Lake. Meet at Boat Dock or ask for message there. Go home the 27th via Hillsboro, Deming-super trip-Paul Gordon in charge.
- September 25 Aguirre Springs, meet at gate off Hwy. 10 a.m., bring lunch.

Albuquerque

- August 3 Tentative field trip to city greenhouses off Wyoming and Spain. For exact time and conformation contact Frances at 344-8201. Meeting reminder cards will not be sent to you if you have missed the last few meetings.
- September 7 Return to Museum of Albuquerque auditorium for meeting 7:30 p.m.
- October 5 7:30 p.m. Museum of Albuquerque.



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