

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

# NEWSLETTER

July, August, September 2002 Volume XXVII Number 3

### **RUIDOSO KIDS GET NATIVE GARDEN THANKS TO SACRAMENTO CHAPTER**

Thanks to the Sacramento Chapter, a \$900 grant from NPSNM, and the Ruidoso Municipal School District which matched the grant, Ruidoso-area pre-school and kindergarten children are learning about planting and growing native plants.

The grant was given in 2001 for an educational landscaping project at the Nob Hill Early Childhood Center and involves a 5,000 square foot area which was landscaped and hardscaped last year. This year, chapter members will complete the walking paths and continue planting and seeding wildflower areas. Signage will be added to tell the children and visitors about the native plants.

Bob Hall, president of the chapter, said members have really enjoyed working on the project. "This is our chapter's initial community effort," Hall said, "and so far it's been a big hit with teachers, students, and the community."

Hall added that the garden project "offers an excellent example of how to use plants that conserve water."

**26th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**August 15 - 18**  
**in Silver City**  
*Details on Page 11*

### ***NATIVE SUNFLOWERS: A SUMMER SPECTACLE***

by **Sandra D. Lynn, Carlsbad Chapter**

From June through September sunflowers line the byways of America, often gathered along roadsides like cheerful crowds waiting for a parade. They are so common a sight that many people drive by without even noticing.

But our native sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.) are actually rather special. One species in particular, *H. annuus* or common sunflower, has for a long time been thought to be the only crop plant of global significance domesticated by Native Americans in what is now the continental United States. Other important food plants from the Western Hemisphere, such as potatoes and corn, were first domesticated in countries south of the U.S. However, recent archeological findings in Mexico now seem to indicate that the sunflower, too, may have first been domesticated south of the Rio Grande. But the fact remains that the wild-

*(continued on page 4)*

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# THE PREZ SEZ

This election issue of the Newsletter should cause us all to remember and appreciate the work of volunteers in NPSNM. We do not yet have paid staff or employees. Every time you receive the newsletter, open our web site, enjoy a field trip, attend an annual meeting, etc., you are benefiting from the efforts of a great many volunteers. Watching our members step forward to shoulder responsibility for all the hundreds of tasks and jobs that make NPSNM a functioning and growing organization has humbled me. I have also learned to value certain qualities that are always present in our best volunteers:

- These are caring people. They have consciously made a commitment to something worthwhile. Cooperating with others is easy because their helping hands are connected to kind hearts.
- They are generous with their time and resources, even when the effort becomes greater than they had anticipated. (This goes straight to the heart of good citizenship. Every person is obliged to do their share to protect the environment and make their communities better.)
- They are responsible, take-charge people who can remain motivated without constant supervision. They do what they say they will do.

What motivates these honorable people to volunteer? It varies, but at least two rewards are always present:

- Camaraderie. Shared interests and shared responsibilities bring people together. Life-long friendships are made among volunteers.
- Making an impact. Even the smallest task can be satisfying and contribute to organizational goals. A little effort by several people gets a large job done.

NPSNM needs member participation at the state and chapter levels, so volunteer when the need arises! You can make a difference and we will appreciate your help.

*Robert Sivinski*

## VOLUNTEER PROFILES



**Carolyn Gressitt & John Freyermuth**  
*Las Cruces Chapter*

NPSNM is a growing organization with nearly 1,000 members. Our Membership Secretary has a big job maintaining the member database, providing member lists and mailing labels to chapters, processing new member applications, and mailing and receiving all member renewal cards. Fortunately, this important job is in the capable hands of John Freyermuth in the Las Cruces Chapter.

Carolyn Gressitt helps John with these tasks and also mails the NPSNM Newsletter to the entire membership. Carolyn's other interests include singing in the NMSU Master Works Choir and international folk dancing. John plays tennis, and both enjoy running, hiking and native plant identification. John works at NMSU Library as a Library Specialist in Collections Management and Carolyn is an English teacher at Gadsden High School. They have four children: David, 26; Sonia, 24; Chandra, 18; and Meg, 16.

How can we make their jobs easier? Carolyn says, "It would be helpful if members let us know about address changes."

**Who in your chapter deserves recognition for his or her work on behalf of NPSNM? Send a short description and a photo to Editor, PO Box 607, Arroyo Seco, NM 87514.**

### ATTENTION INTERNET SHOPPERS!

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is now a registered cause at [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com). When you buy something from a participating merchant on the internet, a portion of the purchase price can be donated to us.

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to the NPSNM Web Site?  
*http://npsnm.unm.edu***

**Native Plant Articles, Chapter News,  
NPSNM Business (budget, by-laws, etc),  
and Botanical Links.  
It's always being updated, so  
check it out regularly.**

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization, and is free to members. The NPSNM 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 attributed to the author and to this Newsletter. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM. Manuscripts and artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor:

*POBox 607, Arroyo Seco NM 87514  
andrzej@laplaza.org*

**Deadline for next issue is Sept 1st 2002**

**Membership** in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals, i.e., promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our 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. In addition, a wide selection of books dealing with plants, landscaping, and other environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld which can be ordered by contacting our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

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*Sunflowers cont'd from front page*

flower was altered to serve as an important food plant long before Europeans settled in the New World.

In its wild form, *H. annuus* provided Native Americans both edible seeds and oil (along with other benefits). Because it likes disturbed soils, it ventured close to pueblos and encampments where people learned to save the largest heads and plant their seeds.

When Europeans arrived, *H. annuus* could be found in two forms — the common, multi-headed wildflower and its close but altered relative, the domesticated sunflower with a single large head. There is evidence that the sunflower was cultivated, in a form much like agricultural sunflowers today, for as long as 3,000 years, particularly here in the Southwest. In our part of that region today, at this time of year, you are likely to see primarily *H. annuus* in bloom.

At least nine other species can be found in New Mexico, according to *Sunflower Species of the United States* by Charlie Rogers, Tommy Thompson, and Gerald Seiler. Other species listed for our State include *H. arizonensis*, *H. ciliaris*, *H. laciniatus*, *H. neglectus*, *H. niveus*, *H. nutallii*, *H. paradoxus*, *H. petiolaris*, and *H. rigidus*. Across northeastern New Mexico, the most often seen sunflower may be the dainty *H. petiolaris* or annual prairie sunflower. In the southern half of the state, *H. ciliaris*, also called blueweed for the bluish cast to its leaves, is a rather short, perennial sunflower found in alkaline soils and considered a pest by farmers. *H. nutallii*, another perennial but much taller, occurs in moist places in the Rocky Mountains.

One of the most unusual sunflowers native to New Mexico will be in its full glory in the southeastern part of the state in mid-September. Called *H. paradoxus* (common names are the paradoxical, puzzle, or Pecos sunflower), it has a fascinating story. By about 1980 it was feared to be almost extinct because its habitat--desert *cieneegas*, ponds, and stream banks in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico--had dried up or been overgrazed or overtaken by salt cedar. But in the early 1990s, just as botanists were giving up on it, it was discovered by Bob Sivinski to be alive and quite well just at the edge of Roswell in Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge

and other locations in the eastern part of the state. If you visit Bitter Lake in mid-September, when it's at peak bloom, you will see these rare sunflowers everywhere! It's a marvelous sight. When I have taken people to see them, they ask, "How can it be rare when it's growing here by the thousands?" The only reason the paradoxical sunflower even exists at Bitter Lake is that it has found a refuge, intended primarily for migrating birds, where the sunflower's wet, saline habitat is protected. Elsewhere its habitat is either gone or disappearing.

A few populations of *H. paradoxus* are also found on The Nature Conservancy's Diamond Y Springs preserve near Fort Stockton, Texas, around Blue Hole. In New Mexico it is scattered in wet areas in Santa Rosa, and in a couple of other locations. An effort funded by a state grant is currently underway in Ft. Sumner to plant the Pecos sunflower there in suitable habitat. But that's it. Nowhere else can you find it.

I hope this article will encourage you to pay more attention to the common sunflower, with its special distinction as a native crop plant. And I also hope that it may prompt some readers to travel to the Bitter Lake Refuge in September and enjoy a rare sunflower in its end-of-summer celebration of having found refuge from a drier, less hospitable world.



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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Bob Sivinski (NPSNM Newsletter January-March 2002) calls on us to think about ways to promote interest in botanical research in New Mexico. Before moving to New Mexico, I was an active member of another botanical society that is perhaps a model of what NPSNM could be.

The Connecticut Botanical Society runs an amazing number of field trips each year, publishes an annual trips report and quarterly newsletter that are worth reading and keeping for future reference, does extensive outreach, and has accumulated an impressive herbarium collection.

I think a large part of the success of CBS is due to the fact that the society, which has no involvement in advocacy, has an ongoing job: recording changes in the Connecticut flora over time. Every field trip results in a list of species identified. For skilled participants, this is something interesting and useful to do. For new participants, this provides new botanical knowledge and skills and an idea how and why they too might want to become skilled botanists. See the CBS website: <http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/>.

*Una Smith  
Santa Fe Chapter*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to replace Dr. Charlie McDonald, a PhD botanist, with a biologist in its New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office. The Ecological Services Office intends for that person to learn the ecology of threatened and endangered species as on-the-job-training, and also to provide the opportunity for its existing staff to obtain botanical training.

While a general biologist may be able to deal with much of the consultation work, there is no substitute for a professional botanist with a doctoral degree. Only a professional botanist has the knowledge and experience to deal with botanical matters pertaining to the Endangered Species Act. An experienced professional botanist would eliminate the need for botanical training of the existing staff as well as requiring the biologist to learn the ecology of listed species.

In addition, a professional botanist will already have a network of professional contacts. Dr. McDonald used to assist the state's rare and endangered plant program in obtaining much needed money available through Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. A general biologist simply will not have the necessary network to carry on this type of liaison. It is just a matter of time before other concerns consume the biologist. Simply put, there is no substitute for the passion a professional botanist would bring to dealing with botanical issues pertaining to the Endangered Species Act.

I believe that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should reverse its decision. The Service should re-assign the biologist and hire a professional botanist for their New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office. The taxpayer deserves to have his or her tax money spent on meaningful work pertaining to the Endangered Species Act - not on unnecessary government training sessions and on-the-job training.

*Jim McGrath  
Albuquerque Chapter*

# Chapter Activities & Events

## ALBUQUERQUE

Programs at Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120

Lomas NE at 7:00 p.m.

**July 11.** A "hands-on" Cactus Seed Sowing Workshop. Steven Brack, owner of Mesa Garden.

**July 14. Field trip.** *Wildflowers of the Upper Sandias*. Led by Pearl Burns. Meet at Smith's parking lot on Carlisle at Menaul. 8:00 a.m. 2-3 hours.

**Aug 1.** *Challenges and Opportunities in the Management of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque*. Sterling Grogan, Biologist.

**Aug 24. Native Plant Society Plant Sale and Educational Fair.** Albuquerque Garden Center, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Sept 5.** *The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program on the Middle Rio Grande in Central New Mexico*. Kim Eichhorst, Data Manager for BEMP.

**Sept 14. Field trip.** *The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program*. Led by Kim Eichhorst. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in parking lot of Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW. 3 hours.

## CARLSBAD

**Sept 14. Field trip.** Dragonfly Festival at Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge near Roswell. Led by Sandra Lynn. 505-234-1772.

**Sept 28. Plant propagation workshop.** Led by Dean Ricer. Living Desert State Park. Call 505-887-5292 for details.

## EL PASO (Texas)

2nd Thursdays at the Centennial Museum on the UTEP campus, 7:00 p.m.

**July 11.** *Northern Chihuahuan Desert Wildflowers*. Rick LoBello, Education Coordinator, El Paso Zoo.

**July 20. Field experience** to the Rio Penasco, Sacramento Mountains, NM led by Dr. Jack Bristol and Dr. Lil Mayberry, Dept. of Biological Sciences, UTEP. Call 915-532-3132 for information & courtesy reservations.

**August 8.** *Maintaining your Native Plant Landscape*. John White, Dona Ana Co. Extension Agent, Las Cruces, NM.

**August 16-18. Field trip** to NPSNM Annual Meeting in Silver City, NM. Contact Ed Freeman, 747-6990, for details.

**September 12.** *Sky Island Wildflowers of the Chiricahua Mountains, southeastern Arizona*. Wynn Anderson.

**September 21. Field trip** to South Fork of Cave Creek, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona. A weekend trip lead by Wynn Anderson. Call 533-6072 for info & courtesy reservations.

**September 28. Educational workshop, *Wildflower Photography*** by Lisa Mandelkern. Field portion of a two part program. Call Barbara Light, 565-2870, for details & reservations.

## GILA (Silver City)

No Programs scheduled during summer month.

**Field Trips: 8:00 a.m. Fine Arts Bldg. WNMU**

**July 14. Field trip** to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range for a walk along a meandering creek with good forest cover.

**August 15 to 18. Annual Meeting:** Come to Silver City and choose from among ten field trips.

**September 15. Hike** along beautiful Mineral Creek in the area of Glenwood, Alma, and Mogollon.

## LAS CRUCES

Meetings at Conference Room, Social Center at University Terrace, Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida, 7 p.m.

**July 10. Nighttime Critters in the Chihuahuan Desert.** Paul Hyder will get us ready for a night walk on July 27, 2002. Paul's presentation is sure to be lively and he'll no doubt bring a few of his critter friends for us to view close up.

**July 12, 13 and 14. Overnight trip** to Chiricahua Mountains. Contact Lisa Mandelkern at 526-0917 for details.

**July 27. Night Walk Field trip.** A Las Cruces Chapter first. Paul Hyder will lead us through the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park site. Easy to moderate walk. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Bring water, snacks and flashlights. No need for sunscreen, but maybe bug spray. Meet 7 p.m. at Shorty's Shell Station, Highway 70 and Jornada Road. We'll try to carpool in 4-wheel drive or other high clearance vehicles.

**August 24. Field trip.** Pony Hills area, north of Deming. Led by Dr. Monte L. McCrossin, Asst. Professor of Anthropology at NMSU. Dr. McCrossin and his students have been studying petroglyphs here. Join us to learn more about these images and to see the flora of Pony Hills. Meet at 8 a.m. at Fairacres Post office parking lot. Bring water, lunch and sun screen.

## OTERO

**July 27. Two mile hike** along Willie White Spur Trail above Bluff Springs (waterfalls), and around ruins of an old wooden railroad bridge. Led by John Stockert. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Ranger Station in Cloudcroft. We will pass through a beautiful thicket of Bush Cinquefoil, can sample watercress, and at the base of a steep slope see the spring that feeds the waterfalls. Wear long pants and shoes; you may get wet. Bring water and lunch. Be safe; bring light jacket and rain gear.

## SACRAMENTO MTS (Ruidoso)

**July 20.** Presentation on "*Rare and Endemic Plants*" by Bob Sivinski followed by field trip to La Luz canyon and on to Bluff Springs if time permits. Call Bob at 505-438-9690.

**August meeting** TBA.

## SANTA FE

**July 27 and August 10. "Mystery" field trips** tentatively scheduled. Truel West says to come to the PERA parking lot at 8 a.m. and bring lunch and water. Or check with him at truelwest@yahoo.com closer to those dates.

## TAOS

2nd Wednesdays at San Geronimo Lodge, 7:00 p.m.

**July 10. Dealing with Drought.** Dan Rydall, Resource Staff Officer, Carson National Forest..

**August 7. Unutilized Natural Resources.** Todd Bates, New Mexico Native Plant Recyclers.

**Sept 11. Historical Activities & Potential Effects on Native Plants.** Ben Kuykendall, Wildlife Biologist with U.S. Forest Service.

## *COLOR in the LANDSCAPE*

By Stephen Domigan, Landscape Architect

Of the five human senses: scent, taste, feel, sight and hearing, sight is the primary way we encounter a landscape. And while we can enjoy textures and shapes, we are drawn most to color — the color of blossoms, berries and fruit, bark and foliage. Color is also found in architectural elements such as arbors, decks, and ornamental features, as well as in water, soil and rock.

Color can shape and define, focus attention, and orchestrate emotions. We instinctively associate green with tranquility, red with excitement and passion, and yellow with cheerful feelings. Purple means ceremony and suffering. While white is intuitively associated with purity and innocence, the white garden has become synonymous with sophistication.

Isaac Newton conceived the first color circle with his theory that white sunlight contained all colors; this was demonstrated by passing sunlight through a prism. In 1854 Michel Chevreul explored in more detail the color chart in *The Principles of Harmony and Contrast of Colours and their Application to the Arts*. His declarations on color harmony became the principles of color training thereafter. His color wheel showed three primary colors: red, yellow and blue. Mixing two or more primaries in different proportions produces all other colors. Secondary colors are formed by combining equal parts of two primary colors: green comes from blue and yellow, orange from yellow and red, and violet from red and blue. Complementary colors lie opposite each other on the color wheel. Yellow and violet, red and green, orange and blue are complements.

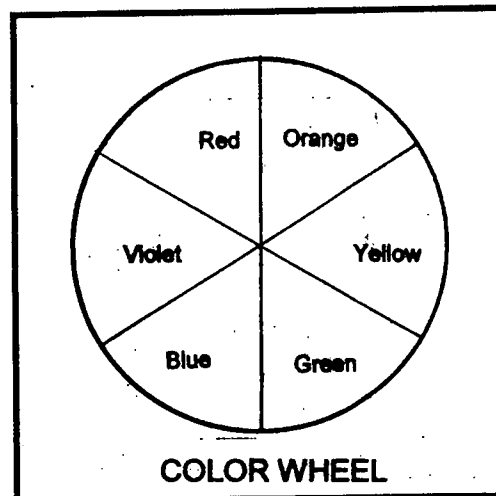
### *Chevreul's beliefs:*

1. Tints and shades of the same hue make combinations of monochromatic harmony.
2. Neighboring colors on the color wheel are agreeable and he called this the harmony of adjacents.
3. All colors gain brilliance and purity by the proximity of gray.
4. If two colors clashed, they could be separated by white, gray or black.

A painter can predict color with certainty by formulation, but the gardener has to deal with the effects of weather, time of day, soil and other variables. Despite the gardener's best plans, the performance of living plants can be unpredictable and the effects may not always be as we had hoped.

The successful use of color in the landscape requires knowledge of the effects of colors with each other, the effects of daylight, and the distance from which you view the color or colors. Colors can be "manipulated" to produce surprising effects such as false depth perception, emphasis or sublimation and visual temperature modification.

1. **Gray or silver** bleaches in full sun. Position these neutrals where they are visible in the soft light of early morning or evening or as a backdrop for crimson or purple. Silver in combination with white or crimson can be used as a barrier between violent color clashes and as a background for autumn reds.



2. **White or light yellow** at the far end of an area will jump forward and create a foreshortening affect. **Blue** will distance and elongate, but it needs a touch of yellow to bring it definition
3. **Purple** is most electrifying when backlit but looks uncomfortable at the edge of a garden where viewed against green fields and trees. **Deeper purples** will virtually disappear into the background if planted at a distance or in deep shade.
4. **Pink** is one of the most versatile of garden colors. It's within the spectrum at the turning point where the cool side merges with the warm.
5. **Red** is also versatile. "Cool" reds are rubies and garnets which provide opulence in the landscape. "Hot" reds are scarlets and vermillions with yellow content and can be cooled down with gray foliage. Green, red's complement, emphasizes its brilliance. A little red goes a long way, as red acts as an accent; it attracts attention to whatever you wish to emphasize. Reds placed at regular intervals in the landscape create a boring rhythm. This effect can be diminished by avoiding regular spacing of red and incorporating neighboring colors such as purple and apricot. Red is typically associated with summer—especially "cool" reds - burgundy, crimson. The vermillions may seem oppressive on a hot day but are good in a fall landscape combined with gold and red fall color.
6. **Yellow** advances to meet the eye. It must be carefully used so as to not overwhelm subtle companions. Yellow combines well with blue, violet, dark red and gold.
7. **Green** is restful and soothing to the eye, yet it brings life to a winter-dormant garden. An all green garden needs a variety of leaf shapes, plant forms and structure. To analyze your garden's design, see it as a black and white photo. The forms and shapes of the plants then comprise the "structure" of the garden; the green foliage provides the color variety and interest. A garden totally of silver or gray greens makes a less interesting composition. But green and gray together are restful yet full of light and texture, especially if dark and yellow greens contrast with silver greens.

The abundance of sunlight in the Southwest emphasizes color, so that by utilizing just some of the color basics, we can create penetratingly vivid and magical landscapes.

# LAWN LOVERS

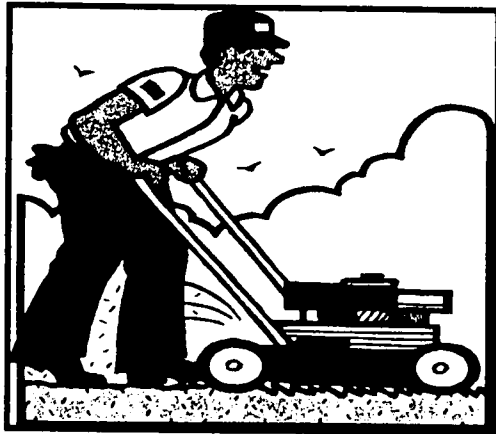
Canadian garden writer Carole Rubin is the author of a new book, *How to Get Your Lawn Off Grass: A North American Guide to Turning Off the Water Tap and Going Native*.

In her research Carole devised a questionnaire to determine homeowner attitudes about their lawns and manicured landscapes. She asked 200 Canadian men and women at random the following questions:

1. *What does your lawn mean to you?*
2. *What does your flower garden mean to you?*
3. *How would you feel if you were asked to replace your lawn with native trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, or groundcovers that need no water once established?*
4. *How would you feel about replacing your existing ornamental landscaping with native trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, and groundcovers?*

## The Men

Answering question #1, 78 percent used words like, “pride,” “beauty,” “peace,” and, tellingly, “best in the neighborhood” when referring to their lawns.



They showed less enthusiasm for their gardens. Not surprising, as only 12 percent of the guys were involved in their creation or care. As a result, responses like, “pretty, I guess,” “nice,” and “that’s my wife’s thing” came up.

As to replacing lawns with native plants, an overwhelming 87 percent were aghast at the idea for any reason whatsoever. “No way,” “Just try it!”

The most common response to the idea of replacing gardens with native plants was, “Not my area, ask my wife.”

Reasons given for *not* removing lawns and going native ranged from, “Where will the kids play,” to “I love my new mower.” When questioned further, most respondents admitted that their kids aren’t allowed to play on the lawn anyway, and some even admitted to being childless.

## The Women

What do lawns mean to the ladies? Fifty-eight percent were lukewarm at best. “Too much work,” “always looks bad no matter what we do,” and “a chore to get my husband to mow it,” were their comments. The rest used the “pride” word.

When asked about their ornamental gardens, 78 percent responded positively with words such as, “therapeutic,” “essential,” “beautiful,” and simply, “mine.”

The idea of replacing lawns with native plants met with little resistance — just 17 percent. The most common concern was the expense and physical work anticipated. In fact, a majority of female respondents (82 percent) thought native replacements would be a “good challenge,” and a “wonderful idea.”

But, don’t tamper with their gardens! A whopping 87 percent defended their right to their current ornamentals, and were sure that natives would be “drab,” “dull,” and “too much work.”

Carole Rubin believes the results would be pretty much the same here in the U. S.

So, she asks, “What’s going on in North America? Why this continuing obsession with manicured, formal, lawn-centered landscapes that guzzle so much water, demand our time and energy, pollute our air, and attack our peace and quiet? It’s the old status thing,” she concludes. “Those homeowners are saying — ‘These are MY boundaries and I have tamed nature! This is my turf, literally.’ ”

So, if you were wondering why we in the native plant movement haven’t progressed further and faster in converting our neighbors, now you know.

Folks, we’ve got a lot of work to do!

ARW



# CONSERVATION CORNER

by Jim Nellessen

## Conservation vs. Restoration

Conservation is "preservation, safe-guarding, protection" from Webster's Dictionary. In the American Heritage Dictionary it is "preservation from loss, waste or harm." What does it mean to you?

Much of what the NPSNM does is aimed at native plant conservation. Do not think that anyone in particular or any committee, subcommittee, or chapter of our Society has cornered the market on conservation. By being active we all play a role in conservation to some degree, even if it is just talking to neighbors and spreading the word about native plants.

Based on traditional thinking, conservation, is aimed at preventing the destruction or loss of things that are still considered to be in a "pristine" or "near pristine" condition. I would hazard to guess (without any hard facts in front of me) that most natural environments, at least within the United States, that meet (or met) such criteria already have been conserved. Or should I say, people have at least attempted to preserve such places.

We all know how "over-loved" some of our national treasures have become, e.g. Yosemite National Park. I am not sure I would classify Yosemite, at least main Yosemite Valley, as pristine anymore (I am sure it was near pristine in 1864), even though we may consider it "conserved." Hence, conservation in today's world must be thought about in much broader terms. Humans have altered nearly all aspects of our natural environment. We do not even need to be physically present in an area anymore to affect it. Air pollution and water pollution travel for miles and miles.

Because of our all-pervasive influence on the natural world, which we are, of course, a part of, a new term has been coming more and more to the forefront, and that term is *restoration*. Restoration has been variously defined, but can be viewed as returning or recovering something to a prior state.

I would view restoration as a subset of conservation, a means of returning or attempting to return a habitat to some natural, self-sustaining stage (or managed stage if necessary) that existed prior to its current "altered" or "degraded" stage. There is a whole society, The Society for Ecological Restoration, devoted to such a cause. I have been a member for a number of years now.

In my view, restoration of native plant communities is what we probably need to be seeking the most in today's world. And the place that this should be happening first of all is in our own yards. I know that many people in our Society are doing just that. This serves as a great educational tool for our neighbors and friends.

Many of our members have developed good ideas on planning landscaped yards using native flora. I never did come up with a master plan for my yard, I just started planting, experimenting, and growing. I guess I am just too much of a naturalist to have developed a master plan. My yard evolved! It is not dependent on an irrigation system (except for a half-dozen species planted by the builder in the front yard). I have nearly 150 species of plants on a 1/4 acre of land. Not bad for a Rio Rancho yard after just 6 years, considering that it started out as bare scraped soil.

The species count does include several weeds that pop up from time to time, and a few non-natives such as roses for my wife. But even the roses are not on an irrigation system. They are simply strategically placed. About 80 percent of the species in my yard are native.

Yes, I believe in restoration. In your own yard the process can start out small. It is happening at all levels from our backyards to large landscapes. It is a very positive thing. It is a very active thing. And it can be done! But it takes time. Restoration does not happen overnight. Our members are performing tasks on a number of projects that would be classified as restoration.

So, whatever conservation/restoration projects you may be planning, keep in mind that spring may be over, but there's still time to get your hands dirty!



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## Special Notice to all members of the San Juan Chapter:

The San Juan Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico has been in a long period of inactivity. We are in danger of folding unless a few members step up to take an active role in planning and executing meetings and activities.

The San Juan County area is in dire need of a chapter to help educate the citizens on native plant use, a point on which we all agree. Please... while we still have several members, call Nancy Dunning at 505-334-0196 and serve on the executive board. Otherwise the chapter will be deemed dead due to inactivity.

One person cannot possibly keep this chapter going. Thank you.

*Nancy Dunning*

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## ANNUAL MEETING IN SILVER CITY

If you have never seen Silver City, the August 15 - 18 Annual Meeting of the NPSNM would be a perfect time to experience this historic mining town with the native flora in full bloom. You will have an opportunity to visit such sites as Emory Pass, the Catwalk, Signal Peak and the Gila and Mimbres River Valleys. Join in the consideration of such multifaceted issues that bring environmentalists, ranchers and the U.S. Forest Service together to protect both ranching and treasured birding areas. Visit the one-of-a-kind display of Mogollon Mimbres art and pottery at the WNMU Museum of Archeology. Learn how to illustrate, paint and photograph native plants. Remember, too, the new addition to the Silver City program invites parents and grandparents to bring children to participate in the Youth Conference Workshop. At the end of the day, join your friends from throughout New Mexico as we relax and dine at the Copper Crest Country Club.

If the native flora of New Mexico is to be conserved for future generations, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico has a vital role to play. At the same time, the membership recognizes the need for cooper-

## ASTER FAMILY WORKSHOP

The Asteraceae (Aster or Composite Family) is the largest flowering plant family in New Mexico with 161 genera and 578 species. Composites occur in every habitat and are ecologically and economically important to our State. If you ever wanted to learn to distinguish the morphology of various Aster Family tribes and genera, here is your chance!

NPSNM will hold a two and one-half day workshop on Asteraceae identification and taxonomy at the Sevilleta National Refuge (near Socorro) on September 6-8, 2002. This course will be taught by Dr. Tim Lowrey, UNM Herbarium Curator and Aster Family expert. Participants will lodge at the Sevilleta Research Station houses and use the on-site laboratory facilities.

This workshop will include classroom instruction and local field trips. Enrollment is limited to 25 people (first come - first served), so apply soon.

Application forms may be obtained by calling Carolyn Dodson at 505-268-7889 or emailing her at [cdodson@unm.edu](mailto:cdodson@unm.edu).

ation and support from a wide range of individuals and organizations. The 2002 Annual Meeting will provide that opportunity for several diverse groups to make their voices heard, respond to questions, and establish a dialog that can make future cooperation a reality.

### Keynoter

Probably no state agency has done a better job of making the connections among education, ecology and economics than the New Mexico State Land Office. Ray Powell, Commissioner of Public Lands, will be our keynote speaker. He promises to provide both suggestions and encouragement to help us all take that next step towards a new level of cooperation.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the diverse native flora of southwest NM, how we can better protect our environment and, at the same time, improve the quality of life for all organisms, including humankind, on our small part of Planet Earth.

For detailed information describing the program and a registration form, see your April-June 2002 issue of the NEWSLETTER or contact Frank and Joyce Knaus at (505) 388-2371 or e-mail: [jfknaus@zianet.com](mailto:jfknaus@zianet.com). Additional registration forms may be found at [www.gilanet.com/silverweb](http://www.gilanet.com/silverweb) or <http://www.gilanet.com/silverweb> under a link to GNPS. Early registration ends July 1, 2002.

# **BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS OF BROTHER GERFROY ARSÈNE BROURD**

by David W. Johnson and Margaret R. Johnson

*I told Mrs. (Agnes) Chase today that I always remembered the many beautiful flowers that grew on the mesa east of Santa Fe, and in the mountains nearby, but that I feared now that Brother Arsène was there, in a few years we shall see only bare sand and rocks, without any indication of the former luxuriant vegetation! The mosses and lichens especially are going to suffer much!*

So wrote the renowned collector Dr. Paul Standley of the Smithsonian Institution to Br. Arsène in 1926 when Standley learned of Arsène's move to New Mexico. Standley had corresponded with Brother Arsène for a decade, identified or passed to other taxonomists literally thousands of Arsène's specimens, and recognized the Brother's continuing contributions to botany. Brother Arsène came to New Mexico near the end of his career to teach science, mathematics and French at the Sacred Heart Training College in Las Vegas and at St. Michael's College in Santa Fe.

Born Gerfroy Arsène Gustave Joseph Brouard near Orleans, France, in 1867, he became, at the age of 17, the secretary and assistant to botanist E. L. de la Chappelle. When de la Chappelle died two years later, Arsène had earned a reputation as an excellent botanist and was elected honorary President of the Botanical Society of Limousin.

## **Entering the Religious Life**

Arsène worked for a time as a salesman and then was called to military service, but after discharge with the rank of lieutenant, he struggled to find a career that could satisfy his religious convictions and his love of botany. He found it with the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Frères des Ecoles Chrètiennes). He joined the order in 1895 and began teaching in 1897.

As a Brother Arsène could lead the religious life he desired, teach science and mathematics, and still have time to continue his botanizing. When the church schools in France were suppressed by the government, Br. Arsène was sent by the order to Mexico to continue teaching in the Brothers' schools. He spent eight years in Puebla, Morelia,



*Brother Arsene, Gallinas Canyon NM in 1936*  
Photo courtesy of Dr. William Weber, University of Colorado

Mexico City and Queretero. There he, along with confreres and students, collected plants extensively. They often walked 20-30 miles in a day and ultimately assembled a collection of 12,000 lichens, mosses and flowering plants. In 1912 Arsène presented an exhibit on regional natural history at a scientific meeting, so impressing the scientists they awarded him the sole gold medal of the congress.

Arsène shipped specimens to experts for identification, inclusion in research herbaria, and sales to collectors. Prince Roland Bonaparte eagerly purchased Arsène's Mexican herbarium sheets. Today, nearly 8,000 specimens are at the Smithsonian; 15,000 at the National Museum in Paris; and thousands more in 26 herbaria in a dozen other countries. In all Arsène collected nearly 200 new species. Standley wrote, "Brother Arsène's contributions to botanical knowledge of Mexico are monumental. They will endure as long as the science itself remains."

### Coming to the U.S.

Early in the Mexican revolution the Christian Brothers were forced to leave the country. Arsène traveled to the U.S. via Cuba (where he discovered several new species of lichens) and taught for a few years each in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and Louisiana. He came to New Mexico in 1926. From then until his death in 1938, Brother Arsène taught and collected extensively.

Arsène's first years in New Mexico were productive. At the age of 60, he still led his conferes and students on 20-mile hikes and collected plants from the plains to the peaks of the southern Rockies, from grasslands to alpine tundra. Following his habit of collecting many duplicates, he sent specimens to experts for identification, e.g., grasses to A.S. Hitchcock and Agnes Chase, most nongrass phanerogams to Paul Standley, lichens to Bouley de Lesdain, mosses to Edwin Bartram, and hepatics to Caroline Coventry Haynes.

### Covering Northern New Mexico

Brother Arsène was among the first collectors to work extensively in New Mexico after the early botanical explorations in the 1840s by William Gambel, Frederick Wislizenus, William Emory and Augustus Fendler. (E.O. Wootton and Standley collected east of Santa Fe briefly in 1908.) Arsène's notes indicate that he (along with several other Brothers) collected at least 5,000 specimens there, several thousand of which are at the Smithsonian.

Nearly 1,800 more are in the herbarium at The College of Santa Fe. For 60 years the College collection was stored in boxes — only recently did we “discover” it, prepare a preliminary catalog, and preserve the sheets adequately. The collection at The College of Santa Fe comprises 67 families and 319 genera of vascular plants.

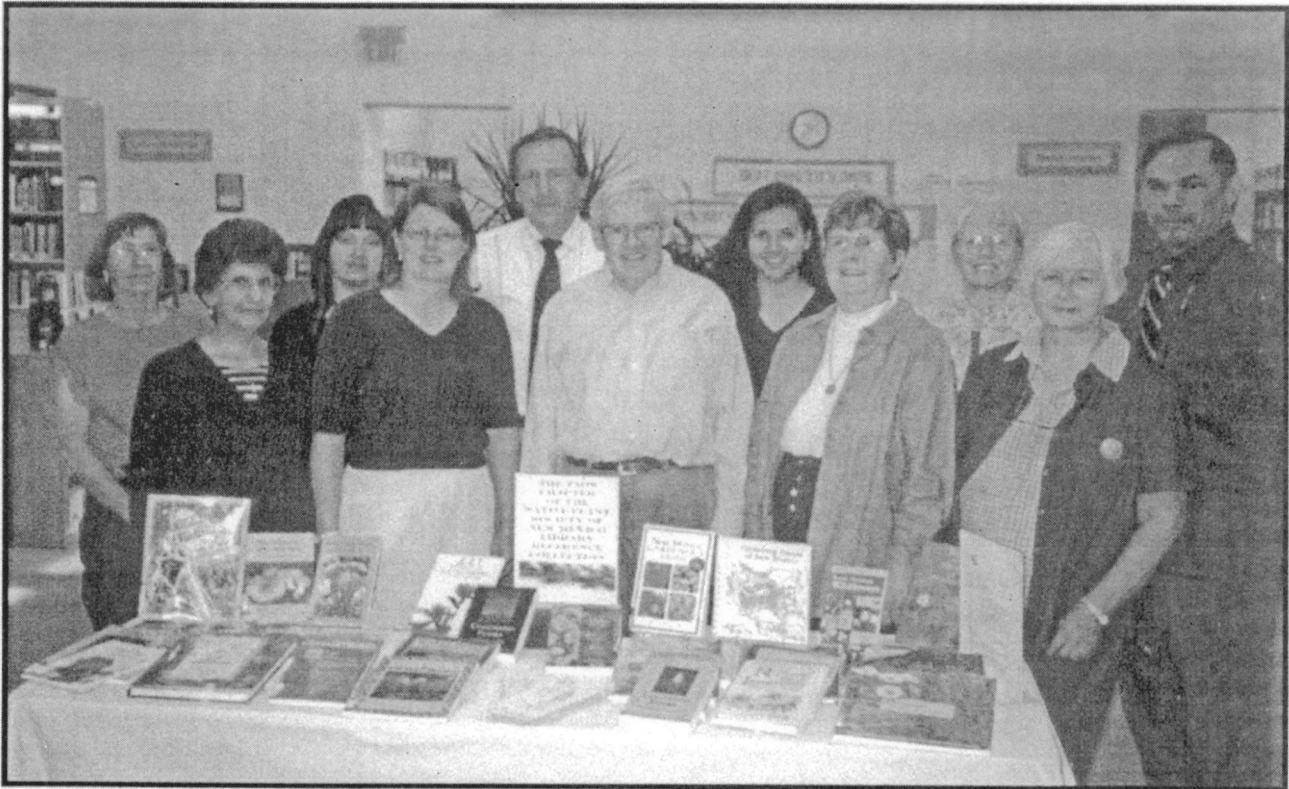
Although Arsène discovered only one new species of vascular plant in New Mexico (*Muhlenbergia arsenei*), a half dozen specimens were new to the State, and he collected 62 new species of lichens. The original specimens identified by Bouley de Lesdains were destroyed in the 1940 Battle of Dunkirk. Fortunately a duplicate set of these lichens resides at the Smithsonian. The College of Santa Fe has at least 600 of Arsène's lichens, but most are unidentified. We are now working on their identification using Arsène's handwritten notes.



This collection of botanical material from early in the twentieth century can be valuable in reconstructing historic ranges of plants in Mexico and New Mexico and examining changes in their distribution patterns because of direct human activity, climate change, and introduction of exotic species. Indeed, one new species of moss (*Jaffueliobryum arsenei*) collected by Arsène in Mexico is now on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of the world's 50 most endangered bryophytes. Arsène noted that several species were rare in northern New Mexico when he collected them (*Eriogonum effusum*, *Heuchera pulchella* and *Nolina microcarpa*).

A preliminary catalog of Arsène's New Mexico collections housed at The College of Santa Fe is available at [pubweb.csf.edu/~djohnson](http://pubweb.csf.edu/~djohnson). You may also use that location to obtain a list of herbaria housing plants collected in New Mexico by Br. Arsène as well as a list of publications by Arsène and books about him and his work.

**David W. Johnson is with Conservation Studies, and Margaret R. Johnson is with the Fogelson Library, both at The College of Santa Fe.**



On May 14th, the Taos Chapter of NPSNM dedicated a special Native Plant Section to the Taos Public Library. Taking part in the dedication were: (center front) Jim Shannon, Director of the Taos Public Library, flanked by (left) Ann Smith, VP of the Chapter, and (right) Judith Spehar, chairperson of the Chapter's Library Committee. Other members attending the dedication were Jim Tuomey, Judy Lister and Jackie Tamas. The Native Plant Section is intended to be a guide for residents of Taos who want to learn the plants and landscaping techniques of this region. Over 40 books have been contributed to the section, and include works by NPSNM members Judith Phillips, Jack Carter, Robert DeWitt Ivey, Sally and Andy Wasowski, and Kelly Allred.



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## BOOK REVIEW

### *Alien Invasion: America's Battle with Non-Native Animals and Plants*

by Robert S. Devine.

Published by the National Geographic Society, 1998. \$15.00

Reviewed by Betty Stewart, Hoe and Hope Garden Club, Longmont, Colorado.

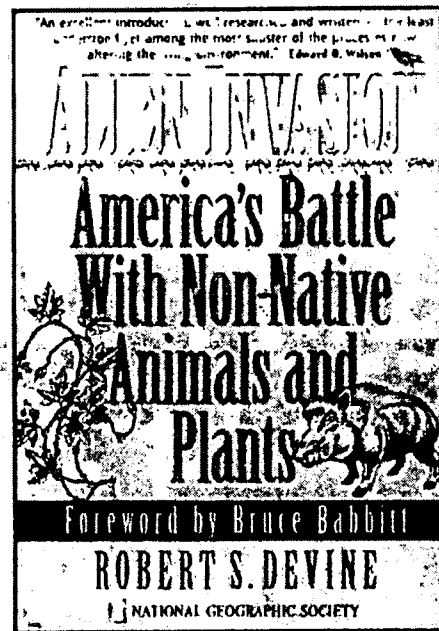
If the term "noxious weed" is in your working vocabulary, your awareness of alien (a.k.a. nonnative, exotic, introduced, or nonindigenous) species has been already aroused. *Alien Invasion* is a must-read to expand that awareness still further.

Invading plants, animals, and microbes form, according to author Robert Devine, "the least known of the world's major environmental issues.... In many cases we overlook the harm caused by alien organisms because it is subtle, long term or occurs out of sight."

Where do the invaders come from? Starlings came from England because someone wished to import the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. Zebra mussels arrived in a ship's ballast water pumped into the Great Lakes. Dutch elm disease came in a 1931 shipment of elm wood from France. In addition, our contemporary travel habits "contribute heavily to the dispersal of formerly local or regional diseases."

In *Alien Invasion*, seven chapters in Part I take close looks at wild pigs (and other alien animals) in California, cheatgrass in sagebrush grasslands, starthistle in the Garden Creek (Idaho) Ranch Preserve, leafy spurge on the Great Plains, whiteflies in California, numerous invasives in the endangered Everglades, and exotic fish in the Colorado River basin and other American waters.

Part II, titled *Counterattack*, describes methods of defense and control, and the chapter *Choosing Our Future, Saving Our Past* in Part III concerns measures to combat the alien invasion. "A clearer picture of our future—both the dangers and the opportunities—can be brought into focus by looking at our island state. Hawaii is ahead of the continental U.S. in dealing with invasives because it's ahead of the mainland in suffering from invasives: Hawaii is the exotic species capital of the world."



Every American should thoughtfully consider the author's assessment that the alien invasion is in an early stage. "Certainly it's already a big problem, but not nearly as big as it will be if we don't contain it. And we can contain it. We have the means both in terms of knowledge and resources. That gives us the rare opportunity to handle a major environmental problem before it becomes overwhelming."

The first step, says Devine, is prevention. "We can do a lot without lifting a finger. Gardeners can learn which plants are invasive in their areas and simply not plant them. We can accomplish much by simply becoming more aware."

## BALLOT

Please endorse these candidates  
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( ) Vice President, Wynn Anderson

President of the El Paso Chapter, Curator of  
Chihuahuan Desert Museum, UTEP

( ) Recording Secretary, Betsy Hall

Publicity Chair, Sacramento Mtns. Chapter

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Others on Family Membership should make copy of ballot.

## ***Las Cruces Chapter Donations Support Area Projects***

The Las Cruces Chapter made two donations this year to organizations that promote conservation of native flora and plant habitats and encourage the appropriate use of native plants in New Mexico.

**Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park:** \$500.00 was donated to the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park (CDNP), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving scientific literacy by fostering an understanding of the Chihuahuan Desert. The CDNP is located on the USDA/ARS Jornada Experimental Range, northeast of Las Cruces. CDNP currently serves over 8,000 K-12 students in southern New Mexico and west Texas each year with interactive, inquiry-based field trips and science programs. Science programs include "Desert Plant Adaptations," "Super Soil," which tests a hypothesis about the influence of plants on soil erosion, and "Desert Plants and Animals," suitable for first- and second-grade students. CDNP is largely staffed by volunteers, who under the direction of Stephanie

Bestelmeyer, Executive Director, tirelessly work toward fostering in children an appreciation of native flora and the Chihuahuan Desert plant habitats.

### **NMSU Biology Department Herbarium:**

\$500.00 was also donated to the New Mexico State University Foundation in support of the NMSU Biology Department Herbarium which is under the direction of Dr. Richard Spellenberg, longtime NPS member and friend. The Herbarium houses a collection of about 65,000 plant specimens from the 1850's on. Emphasis is on New Mexico, southwestern U.S. and Chihuahuan flora. New Mexico species of conservation concern are also represented. Faculty members continue to contribute new specimens to the collection. Last fall, the Las Cruces Chapter enjoyed a personal tour of the Herbarium led by Dr. Spellenberg. The NMSU Biology Department Herbarium is an excellent resource for the professional and amateur botanist alike. For further information about this extraordinary collection or to inquire about visiting, contact Laura Huenneke. Phone (505) 646-3933 or e-mail at [lhuennek@nmsu.edu](mailto:lhuennek@nmsu.edu).

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