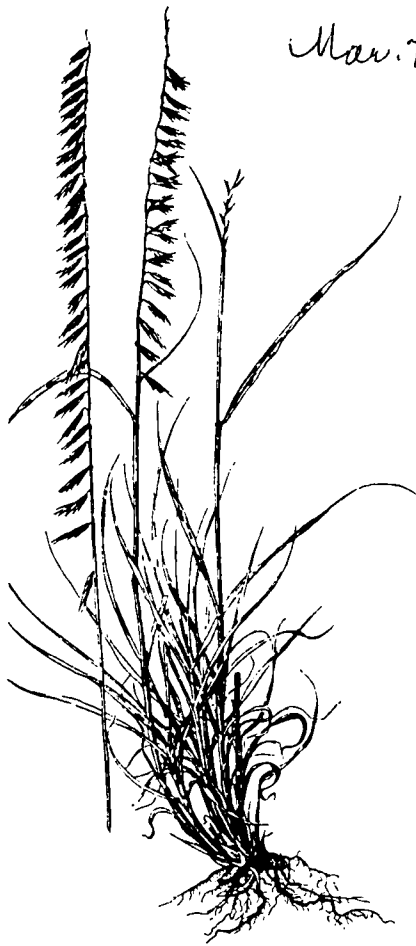


Mar. 77



THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

Melissa Savage, editor

983-1113, Santa Fe

Many thanks to Larry Watson of Western Evergreen Nursery in Golden Colorado for his thorough and apt lecture and slides on native trees, shrubs, and forbs suitable for landscaping in our area. We are really delighted to find a source for these plants at Western Evergreen, particularly plants of such fine quality. People who wish to purchase plants from his nursery may contact Gail Haggard, who is putting in an order for the Native Plant Society's First Annual Plant Sale in late May, or myself, Melissa Savage. Gail has also provided a list of the plants Larry spoke of for anyone who wishes a copy; please ask.

Next month's program is a charming one. On Saturday April 23rd, at 7:30 pm, Dr. Thomas Todsén from Las Cruces will speak on

Native Orchids of New Mexico

This will be a joint meeting of NPS and the Santa Fe-Los Alamos Orchid Club. We haven't yet located a large enough room (60+ people), but we will call the week before the meeting to remind everyone and will have the information then. Which reminds me, we are in the process of weeding our mailing list, and calling lists, and several people did not get called before the last meeting--and my apologies--we hope it will be corrected from now on.

We'd like to all to who don't already know, to learn of the N.M. Wildflower Association, based in Albuquerque--much like our own group. They publish a newsletter, have field trips, and monthly meetings with speakers. 1977 field trips planned for Sandias, Pine Flats, Old Cienega, Silver City, Las Vegas, Wheeler, Sierra Blanca, SF Ski Basin--in search of wildflowers in bloom. You can contact the "benevolent dictator" of this group Judy Nickell, 3817 Calle Del Monte NE, Albuquerque 87110.

PROGRESS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES

This is brief review of what the State is doing about the Endangered Species Act; we'll have a sketch of Federal actions later:

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State of New Mexico Efforts in Behalf of Endangered and Threatened Plants

At the present time no formal State effort in behalf of endangered and threatened plants in New Mexico exists. An informal arrangement does exist, in that the Governor has directed the Department of Game and Fish to act as his and the State's liaison with the Federal Government on matters pertaining to such plants. To date, this liaison has functioned mainly in commenting on proposed New Mexico candidates for endangered and threatened listing; in one case a candidate, the lousewort Scrophularia coccinea, was suggested by the Department as a candidate for listing. Part of the reason that no formal State program exists in behalf of endangered and threatened plants is that no specific jurisdiction exists among State agencies for these entities and their conservation. The only law that explicitly deals with an array of native plants is the one that protects certain groups, e.g. certain orchids, cacti, and other horticulturally desirable species, from being exploited on State land. The Federal government requires much more specific authority than this to consider a State eligible for a cooperative agreement, which in essence is a document of recognition of a State's being qualified to manage endangered and threatened species. At the present time, I know of no definite plans to develop a State program that would qualify New Mexico for a cooperative agreement for endangered and threatened plants. This does not mean that no efforts will exist at the State level in the behalf of such plants, for the Department of Game and Fish will continue to function on an informal basis in this area. It is anticipated that this effort will improve significantly when the New Mexico Heritage Program--under the leadership of Bill Isaacs --becomes part of the Department on July 1, 1977. In the meantime, efforts are needed to obtain a formal State program, including legislative authority and funding.

--John Hubbard

New Mexico State Heritage Program

The New Mexico State Heritage Program is a program designed and supported by the Nature Conservancy. This organization is a national, private group dedicated to the protection of natural diversity. Many thousands of acres of land have been set aside to protect unusual organisms or ecologically unique areas. The underlying principle of the Nature Conservancy is to attempt to protect the rarest elements of natural diversity so that they are not lost for all time. Two examples of Nature Conservancy activities in N.M. are acquisition of the Sevilleta Land Grant, some 270,000 acres of land, in the La Joya State Game Refuge. Another is the purchase of the Little Chama Ranch in northern New Mexico by Nature Conservancy, which was turned over to the N.M. Game and Fish Department to manage as a wildlife area.

The Heritage Program is involved with the development of an inventory of the natural diversity of New Mexico with special emphasis on the rare, endangered, or threatened species of organisms that occur here. This inventory is developed from many sources including studies by