



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

March/April 1986

Volume XI No. 2

CALENDAR

- March 5 Albuquerque Chapter will view its newly acquired video cassette on the Big Bend Country. Albuquerque Art Museum, 7:30 p.m.
- March 23 Otero Chapter will meet at 2:00 p.m. at Ad Hanawalt's home near Tularosa for a tour of several Tularosa member's homes. Directions to the Hanawalt's home are turn left (going north) after the 50 mile speed limit sign. Go past the pecan orchard to the end of the road (burned brick house). Turn left. Go across the RR tracks and turn right. Look for the Hanawalt sign (solar house). Bring seeds to exchange.
- April 2 Albuquerque Chapter regular meeting
- April 19 Living Desert Museum will host an all day program on landscaping with native plant. Tom Wootten of Dry Country Plants in Las Cruces will be the speaker.
- April 19 All day trip on the White Sands Range-Tularosa Gate Entrance. Trip is for members only and an ADVANCE list of names is required. No cameras are permitted. Meet at gate at 9:00 a.m. Bring plant identification books and lunch. Contact Jean Dodd for more information 434-3041.
- April 26 — Albuquerque native plant sale, Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE.
- April 26 Chihuahuan Desert Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Fort Davis, Texas. Native plant sale and desert landscaping seminar (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1986 is a landmark year for the Native Plant Society. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary!! Much has changed since the first group of interested individuals met in Santa Fe. Members come from all parts of the state and around the country, and bring with them a wide assortment of talents. Looking back over the last 10 years one thing remains constant, the willingness of the members to help the Society grow and the eagerness to learn more about our native flora. I'm certain that will still be true in another 10 years.

All over the country organizations such as ours have been and are being formed. More people are becoming aware that "native"

is not necessarily synonymous with "weed". Books are being written (and best of all, published), showing that there really is a market for information on native plants.

To help us celebrate 10 years of native plants, we'd like to hear from some of the original members (we still know who you are!!), if you have any pictures from past events that you would be willing to share for our files, we'd also appreciate those. We are looking for some special projects (such as a symposium on native plants in the Southwest) to start our next decade. Let me know if you'd be willing to volunteer for that or any other project.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico-- we grow naturally!!

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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Frances Szeman, 1858 Calle Las Vecinos, Albuquerque 87107 (344-8201)

WILDFLOWER SLIDES CHAIRMAN

Helen Polley, P.O. Box 2452, Las Cruces, NM 88004 (526-3716)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

When Judith Phillips asked me to be newsletter editor several months ago, I was flattered but hesitant. What do I know about native plants? At that time I made my first mistake, I didn't scream "no" and tear my hair out.

When a hand-written appeal from Lisa Johnston arrived, I was impressed. At that time I made my second mistake, I ignored it.

When I met Ted Hodoba at the library one day in December I knew my fate had been sealed, he told me I had been drafted.

It wasn't until the Finley's arrived at my doorstep with two HUGE boxes marked "Newsletter Files" did I fully realize what

I had let myself in for. I had absolutely no idea what goes into a newsletter.

I can never hope to top the Finley's professionalism and often biting wit. All I can ask is that when you, the membership, see a newsletter need, addition or deletion, please communicate this with me. I fear these first few issues may be rough, your suggestions are appreciated.

Also, for those who have contributed to the newsletter in the past, please do so again. For those who have never contributed, we'd like to hear from you.

The newsletter is for you. This is the best way we have of staying in touch with one another.

CHAPTER REPORTS

LEA COUNTY

The Lea County and Neighbors NPS met October 22, at 7 p.m. at the Will Rodgers Community Center with 6 members and 1 guest attending. The speaker was Carl Weichmann of Weichmans' Nursery in Hobbs. Mr. Weichmann discussed how to identify plant material. The discussion centered upon plant morphology; naming flower parts, noting leaf type, arrangement, venation, and defining herbaceous, woody, annual or perennial. After one hour with this knowledgeable man, all were anxious to learn more about plant parts.

The November and December meetings were cancelled due to the Holidays.

The January 28th meeting had Ed and Pat Sterling showing how to photograph flowers with samples taken on their trips around the state.

CHAVEZ COUNTY

On January 16th, the Chaves County Chapter met in the lounge of the ENMMC used by the medical staff. A prior notice in the Roswell Daily News drew a full capacity crowd. There was scarcely an empty chair anywhere in the lounge. The crowd was composed of all age groups and a very worthwhile lecture it turned out to be. Dr. Jerry Ainsworth first discussed the history and use of herbal medicine, pointing out the difficulty of knowing the quality or strength of most of the common herbs in general use. Differences in plant parts used, time of year gathered as well as soil and weather all affect the product potency. No quality or purity control is available and no guarantee is even implied. Some mixtures costing more than \$5.00 would contain perhaps 15¢ worth of one and less than 25¢ of another yet the public pays as much as they would for a reliable remedy. Dr. Ainsworth did point out two medicines which derived from herbal medicine, Quinine and Asperin. The directions for use are ambiguous and indefinite, some even recommended for opposite conditions. The slide program which followed was delightful!!! Dr. Ainsworth is a very talented photographer, his pictures were full of color and contrast. I can foresee a very large attendance when he next leads a field trip.

ALBUQUERQUE

The Albuquerque group got off to a running start in '86 at our January meeting. We were treated to literally tons of Mike Kosonovich's wildflower slides. Since Mike couldn't attend, we had a lively evening trying to guess what we were looking at. Proving of course how hard it is to identify plants from slides and how rusty our botanical minds had become during the winter.

In February Judith Phillips gave her annual and always welcome talk on propagating wild plants from seeds and cuttings. Never a dull moment there, especially since Judith showed brandnew slides on the different operations involved. Her bubbly humor and infectious enthusiasm had us all rushing home looking for stuff to soak in sulfuric acid. See you all at our next meeting.

1986 NPS-NM OFFICERS

President--Lisa Johnston
Vice President--Tom Wootten
Recording Secretary--Dovie Thomas
Treasurer--Jean Dodd
Membership Secretary--Judith Phillips

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What's In A Name?

This second in a series on botanical explorers has taken an unexpected turn. That 19th Century blockbuster, Adolph Wislizenus' account of his New Mexico adventures, has been checked out of the UNM Library. Obviously those tales of botanical intrigue are as popular today as they were more than a century ago. Unfortunately, we'll have to delay reprinting excerpts until the unknown student returns the missing volume (unless, of course, the unknown student is a NPS-NM member researching an article on old Wislizenus, and I do hope that's the case.)

Books on Fremont are as common as his Cottonwood, but not many botanical explorers enjoy the same renown. The Plant Hunters (Michael Tyler-Whittle, Chilton Book., Philadelphia 1970.) is an entertaining and informative work. The current issue of American Horticulturist (Vol. 65 No. 2) approaches plant exploration from another angle in an article entitled Gardening in History: Plant Shipment by Tovah Martin. (Did you know that the mutiny on the Bounty was the direct result of botanical exploration?) But on to the plant hunter of the month, the intrepid Thomas Nuttall (1786-1859). Nuttall was a journeyman printer from Liverpool who emigrated to Philadelphia in 1808 to further his printing career and whose amateur interest in plants and birds led him down the primrose path (it is unclear whether the primroses were *Oenothera* or *Primula*) of plant hunting.

His first extended expedition in 1810 was supposed to take him to Winnepeg, Ontario, but due to personal problems and mixed blessings, he found himself bound for the Pacific Northwest with the Astorian fur traders. On his own, inexperienced in wilderness survival, (according to Tyler-Whittle, he used his shotgun to dig up plant specimens more often than to provide meat for dinner) Nuttall might have suffered the same fate as Josiah Gregg (of *Salvia*, *Ceanothus* and *Dalea* fame) who starved to death on an expedition to California. After this venture in

plant hunting, Nuttall returned to England and then to Philadelphia where in 1818 he published the Genera of North American Plants. Later the same year he travelled as far west as the Cimmaron River before weather, disease, poverty and common sense returned him to Philadelphia.

In 1822 he was appointed Curator of Harvard University's Botanical Garden and served there for twelve years before an expedition led by Capt. Nathaniel Wyeth (namesake of Wyethia?) and financed by the Columbia River Fishing & Trading Company lured him back to the West. After exploring the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, he travelled to the Hawaiian Islands and California before returning to Boston in 1836. His adventures added 1,000 new species to the known American flora.

Since Nuttall's travels focused on prairie and Northwestern ecosystems it is not surprising that those New Mexico natives bearing his name are either found primarily in the northern counties or are very broadly distributed species. They include two dryland shrubs Atriplex nuttallii ssp. *cuneata* (Cuneate Saltbush) and Haplopappus nuttallii (Nuttall's Goldenweed); Elodea nuttallii (Waterweed) a submersed aquatic and Puccinellia airoides (Nuttall Alkali Grass) a perennial wetland grass; Linanthastrum nuttallii, a yellow perennial phlox, and Gayophytum nuttallii, an annual Evening Primrose (so I guess that aforementioned primrose path was lined with Onagraceae after all), both native to high elevations; and the dry plains endemics, Viola nuttallii, a yellow perennial violet, and the Carrot family caudiciform, Lomatium nuttallii.

If the divergent ecosystems represented serve to illustrate Nuttall's adherence to the plant hunters creed ("Neither drought, nor flood, nor rocky slope shall keep me from hitherto unknown flora."), than Astragalus nuttallianus, an annual loco-weed, and Monolepsis nuttallianum (Nuttall's povertyweed) document the reputation of botanical explorers and their chronic economic malaise.

And finally, Nuttall's only generic honorarium, *Nuttallia*, has been superseded by *Mentzelia*. How quickly they forget.

By Judith Phillips

Forget Me Not

It's both Alaska's state flower and a tell it like it is statement to visitor and resident. The vast and varied scenic beauty is a Nature's masterpiece of getting it all together.

Given even a little memory of American history added to the clarity of hindsight, Alaska's proud label The Last Frontier may strike some visitors from the "lower forty-eight" as a rerun it would be wonderful to cancel. Pride and concern about fish and wildlife are in contrast to a vague awareness the plant world is a large part of the scenic beauty. But preserve a wilderness, not just its fauna? Wildernesses are to conquer in the legendary American way. What are developers and extractive industries for?

True, vast areas have been set aside for parks, monuments and preserves. Surely that's to be commended. But for now that's an easy thing to do, because what you can see on a clear day may indeed look like infinity. The real test of commitment lies ahead-when special interests really go for these designated areas, when monies for the areas' care and development must be raised.

From A (Achillea borealis; yarrow) to Z (Zygadenus elegans; death camass/wand lily) there are wildflowers you already know. There are smelly ones, fragrant ones, poisonous ones, ones with unpleasant common names. There are beautiful ones, too: Rare miniature rhododendrons; Alaska orchids; Seward Peninsula's crowded short variegated flowers that are brown seen from a distance but close up become a kaleidoscope of color; the strange world of the tundra, rugged miniature trees and delicate looking flowers hugging the ground; and the suddenly appearing and quickly gone alpine flowers.

Not from the displays of massed yellow dandelion, white Alaska cotton nor red fireweed are the most suitable plants for the small garden to be found. Rather, you must get out and walk, not race down the highways, to find the individual, often small, flowers better suited to limited spaces. Some of these wildflowers are protected by legislation, others are unprotected yet rare enough they should not be disturbed. Just as

everywhere else, regulations governing plant, vegetative part of seed collection as well as ownership or custody of areas should be learned and respected. And as elsewhere in the United States, there is not information readily available detailing the propagation and cultural needs of these wild ones-information that is so easy to come by for cultivars. But then, gardening with no new challenges would become a dull routine, wouldn't it?

George Finley

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NPS-NM Sweatshirts

For a limited time, we are offering sweatshirts with the NPS-NM logo printed on the front. The sweatshirts are 50% cotton-50% polyester and come in a choice of colors. All sweatshirts will be printed in dark green ink. Price is \$11.00 (including postage).

Send your check to: NPS-NM BOOKS, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Include your size (S,M,L,XL) and color choice (white, pink, lavender, turquoise, grey or gold). We must receive your order by March 15th.

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Books **BOOKS** Books Books Books Books Books

CONSERVATION POLITICS: THE SENATE CAREER
OF CLINTON P. ANDERSON

by

Richard Allan Baker

The University of New Mexico Press. 352 p.
Illustrated. December 1985 Cloth: \$29.92
Paper: \$14.95

Dr. Baker is director of the US Senate Historical Office. This book is based on his Ph.D. thesis. Senator Anderson left extensive well organized files to be released early for research and publication.

Although conservation is here broadly defined to include water compacts, dams and "development", brackish water research, outdoor recreation, parklands and wilderness areas, this account of Anderson's senate career is, if not must, at least should reading for any New Mexican who feels he is a conservationist.

In 1964 Anderson told a Sierra Club meeting, "I did not initially seek membership in the Senate to provide or push legislation for those who love nature in its various forms, but along the way I have found myself intrigued by side interests alien to my early desires, but of such an appealing nature that they have commanded more and more of my time until now the side shows have swallowed up the circus."

This book, a near eulogy, tells of Anderson's determination and his sense of timing, knowing when to occupy the spotlight, when to get out, when to wait, push, pressure, trade or manipulate to achieve his goals. Early, these goals were for state but later became western and then national in scope.

Detailed documentation is both the strength and the weakness of this book.

For historian or conservationist this is a significant, authoritative work. But whether deliberately or incidentally, it seems not to search for the great potential for human interest narration about this intriguing, complex man. Of course that's a writer's right. The casual reader should have a right too, to be warned that this is heavy reading.

George Finley

Have you been longing for a copy of the two volume Martin and Hutchins epic work Flora Of New Mexico but found the price tag staggering? Who hasn't? Lisa Johnston has discovered several sets of this marvelous work at the incredible price of \$145 per set. This is significantly lower than the last time I oogled the books. Perhaps now is the time to throw caution to the wind and get a set for yourself or perhaps your chapter could buy the set and donate it to your local library's reference section. For more information contact Lisa Johnston.

The Cooperative Extension Service of New Mexico State University has recently published a pamphlet titled Native Plants For New Mexico Landscapes. Of the five authors, two ought to be familiar to NPS-NM members, Judith Phillips and Lisa Johnston. The pamphlet features over 30 native plants well suited for landscape use and mostly available from nurseries carrying native plants. Each color photo has a brief description on the plant, its habitat and any special care requirements.

The booklet is available from your County Extension office. The first printing of this pamphlet is available free of charge, but future printings will carry a small charge. So get your copy soon. Ask your extension personnel for Circular 513.



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Newsletter Review

One of the joys of being editor of the NPS-NM newsletter is the chance to review previous issues. Imagine my surprise when I discovered the first newsletter was written ten years ago in April. As a relative newcomer to NPS, I've found the newsletters to be interesting and educational not only with regards to the state's flora, but the projects and goals of NPS. With this, the 10th anniversary of the newsletter and NPS-NM, we ought to look back over the newsletter and NPS-NM.

The first issue put forth the goals of NPS-NM: "The people who urged its (NPS) inception are interested in a number of different aspects of interest in the native flora of the state: the encouragement and proper use of native plant materials for landscaping, the aiding of enforcement of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and other laws which protect the endangered and threatened species of the state, and the development of educational materials and demonstration projects to help raise awareness of and appreciation for our native plants." These goals remain the foundation of NPS-NM today.

Early issues of the newsletter dealt with member education through fieldtrips, book reviews and chapter programs. It wasn't long before the newsletter also became concerned with political issues; conservation of Cave Creek Canyon and the salt use on Santa Fe Ski Basin Road. This concern for native plants continued through RARE II and the BLM roadless studies, the 1982 Endangered Species Act, the New Mexico Heritage Program up to the present Endangered Species Act.

Indeed, a special newsletter edition regarding the 1982 ESA was issued with articles by such notables as Senator Pete Domenici, Representative Manuel Lujan, Jr. and Dr. William C. Martin, Dept. Biology, UNM.

Nearly from its inception, the newsletter urged members to use native plants for landscaping. Plants suitable for landscape use were listed in the newsletter until the NPS-NM published two booklets titled Native Plants For Landscaping In Northern New Mexico and Native Plants For Landscaping In Southern New Mexico.

Interest was increasing in native plants and people wanted to know how to gather seed, how to propagate plants or where to buy plants. While several chapters had begun annual native plant sales, this was not sufficient for to meet the demand. The newsletter as well as chapter programs began instructing its members how to gather seed and what concerns must be addressed regarding the plant's status in the area. The newsletter also published information on how to germinate the seed. Finally, for those people not interested in gathering seed, the newsletter published a list of commercial suppliers for both seed and plants.

As the state population increases so does the impact on remote ecosystems. The NPS-NM wanted to know government agencies' policies towards our state's flora. The newsletter featured several articles from the BLM, Forest Service and Nature Conservancy's policies.

CONT LAST PAGE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone No. _____

Other interested family members:

Please enclose your check payable to:

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
 P.O. 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:
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 ___ 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.)?



Alpines '86

The Second Interim International Rock Garden Plant Conference will be held June 28 through July 2, 1986, in Boulder, Colorado. Sponsoring organizations include The American Rock Garden Society, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of ARGS.

The five day conference will include no less than 6 field trips to examine the flora from the foothills to the alpine plants along the Continental Divide.

Plant collectors should enjoy a visit to Little Valley Wholesale Nursery, one of the regions's largest wholesale nurseries specializing in Western natives, both shrubs and wildflowers.

Of course a visit to the Denver Botanic Gardens is a must. Focal point for this visit will be the Rock Alpine Garden and Alpine House, which includes over 3,000 plant species many cultivated on this continent for the first time.

In addition to tours and field trips, ten talks will be given on subjects ranging from dryland plants to plants in Iceland. Other events include a plant show, sale, ranch barbeque and wildflower display.

Optional pre and post conference tours to Arizona, Utah and Wyoming are available. For more information about this facinating conference, contact the Denver Botanic Gardens at 303-575-3751. Do so NOW, don't delay!!!

Dear NPS-NM....

Professor Robert H. Mohlenbrock of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is preparing a beginner guide to wildflowers of the United States for MacMillan Publishing Company. Each of the common species will be accompanied by a color close-up of the flower or inflorescence.

A list of the 127 wildflowers still needing photos was sent to NPSNM. I'll gladly send you a copy of the list if you send me a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope). If your slides are selected, you will be given credit and a modest honorarium. After the slides are returned, you will retain the right to use or sell them again. MacMillan is not taking exclusive rights to the photos.

Review cont.

Now that we are celebrating our 10th anniversary, we need to reflect on where we have been and set goals for the future. Since the newsletter is the thread that binds the chapters together, I've asked each chapter to submit a brief history and detail any special project or need they feel the NPS-NM might be concerned about. I wish to extend the same invitation to our members who are not affiliated with a chapter. The results of this informal survey can be discussed at our annual meeting in Grants in September.

NPS-NM Editor
2500 Norment Rd. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

