

# **Native Plant Society of New Mexico**

## **newsletter**

VOLUME VII

NO.6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

1982

- Nov./ Dec. Southeastern Chapter has no set meeting date. For information on these months, call Nina Eppley at 622-7180.
- Nov./ Dec. Otero-Lincoln Chapter will not meet these months. Happy Holidays!
- November 3 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Jim Lewis will speak on Gardening without work. 7:30 pm, Museum of Albuquerque, 2000 Mountain Road.
- November 6 Las Cruces Chapter Field Trip to Aguirre Springs. Meet at 8:00am at Brannigan Library.
- November 10 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Wednesdays): Mrs. Chavez will speak on herbs and their uses as seasonings and medicines. 7:30 pm, NMSU Agricultural Building, Room 156.
- November 17 Santa Fe Chapter meets(3rd Wednesdays): Paul Knight of the New Mexico Heritage Program will speak on "Edaphic Specialization of Native Plants". 7:30 pm, St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118.
- December 1 Albuquerque & Glenn Niner Chapters joint Christmas Potluck. For details on place and time, call Frances Szeman at 344-8201.
- December 4 NPS Board of Directors Meeting. Election of Officers. Lunch at noon, (brown bag). Meeting at 1:00. Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, 1036 Miller ST SW, Los Lunas.
- December 8 Las Cruces Chapter meets: Annual potluck supper at the Loziers, 1934 Highland at 6:30.
- December 15 Santa Fe Chapter meets: For information on this meeting, call Carol Dimeff at 984-0750.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"What's yours is mine, what's mine is my own!" This joyous chant from childhood days when we played keep-away and we all knew we were playing the same game, now pops up again on less innocuous terms. Neighbors of ours think our water should be their water, while it is improbable that they think their electricity should be our electricity.

Figures released from N.M.S.U. state that 72% of New Mexico's present water supply is utilized by agriculture, which produces necessities of life that cannot be surrendered. Water is measured in acre feet, the volume required to cover one acre one foot deep. Present New Mexico water use other than agricultural is listed in acre feet as follows:

Urban	140,000
Mineral production	50,000
Industrial production	22,000
Power production	55,000
Reservoir evaporation	370,000

Considering our sun-belt population estimates for the year 2,000, let's cede to our chummy neighbors the 370,000 acre feet of reservoir evaporation, to cool their hot air.

-M.W.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

". . . As a collector of rare and species plants (particularly N. American species), I would like to become a member of your society. . . I try to collect as much seed as possible and would be happy to exchange or donate them to your members.

P.S. I have access to a good supply of native Australian seed-- this would probably do well in New Mexico.

Dr. William Cochrane  
"Woodbine"  
Queenscliff Road  
R.M.D. Doysdale, Victoria  
3222, Australia

Well readers, here's your chance to get some very different seed and to provide a fellow plant lover with some seed of your favorites. Do write and let him know what you are interested in!

DO WE HAVE ANY VOLUNTEERS???

It's that time of year again. NPS is looking for a few good persons. The hours aren't bad & the pay is great if you find meeting and exchanging ideas with other good people with native interests rewarding.

Yes friends, NPS is asking for nominations for officers for 1983. On the state level we nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, & Membership Secretary. (Please submit nominations by Nov. 20th to the Newsletter Editors). Don't be shy, volunteer yourself!!!

On a local level, chapter leadership needs representatives to report on activities for the newsletter, contact members about activities (by mail and/or phone), suggest and help coordinate programs, field trips, and activities. The talents of our members are diverse and interesting.

Besides volunteers to serve as officers, we'd like to encourage all our members to take an active part in your society. Artists & photographers, show us your work, either at chapter meetings or in the newsletter. Growers of natives, lend us your expertise via propagation workshops. Those of you who are skilled typists, especially if you're feeling unappreciated, we'd love to shower you with thanks for the contribution of your time and talent. Those of you who have been hoping to see your favorite topic (be it medicinals, botany & ethnobotany, landscape design, pruning or whatever) highlighted in the newsletter, you know a sure way of getting it done is to write it yourself.

Do it NOW!!! Volunteer for NPS.

Contributors to this issue are:

- J.D. Jean Dodd
- J.P. Judith Phillips
- J.L. Jean Lozier
- T.H. Ted Hodoba
- M.W. Mary Wollers
- T.A. Tom Andrews
- J.G. Jack Greathouse
- L.J. Lisa Johnston

Editors: Lisa Johnston & Judith Phillips

Election time is almost upon us. The New Mexico Native Plant Society does not endorse candidates for public office. However, many of us have a very real concern for the future of native plants and the land that supports them. The attitude and votes of our federal and state representatives have a great impact on how land will be used in New Mexico.

I would like to provide our members with some background information on the conservation concerns of some of our candidates. Senator Harrison Schmitt received a rating of 5 out of 100 for the 1981 session of Congress by the League of Conservation Voters, giving him the worst environmental rating of all 100 senators. Schmitt is one of the few supporters of Watt's efforts to open wilderness areas to coal and gas leasing. He voted to cut Environmental Protection Agency funding, to finance the unjustifiable multi-billion dollar destruction of the Tombigbee River,

and to seriously cut funding for energy conservation and solar energy.

Representative Manuel Lujan also received one of the worst environmental ratings for 1981 with a score of 14 out of 100 by the League of Conservation Voters. Both Lujan and Schmitt have been supporters of virtually every increase in military spending. Many Americans believe that our endless build up of nuclear weapons, besides destroying the economy, greatly increases the risks of nuclear war, the ultimate environmental issue.

I would like to urge all of the members of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico of all political persuasions to exercise their civic duty and vote on November 2nd. Recently a non-partisan coalition of almost all of the conservation organizations in New Mexico was formed under the name the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance. I would like to report to you some of the environmental concerns of the candidates endorsed by NMCVA:

-T.A.

**FOR GOVERNOR: TONEY ANAYA**

Strong commitment to greater reliance on renewable resources and solar energy; noteworthy proposal for creation of a State Dept. of Water Resources, and a comprehensive state water policy. As Attorney General, Toney created the Division of Consumer Protection and the AG's Energy Unit to represent ratepayers.

**FOR SENATOR: JEFF BINGAMAN**

Sued the Dept. of Energy for failing to consult with the state on the environmental consequences of the proposed WIPP Project, testified against a sagebrush rebellion bill and against basing the MX missile on vast public land tracts in New Mexico; strong supporter of the present Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

**FOR CONGRESS JAN HARTKE  
(1st District)**

Hartke has called for James Watt's resignation, retention of strong air and water laws, more federal aid for the Environmental Protection Agency, solar and energy conservation and for stricter wilderness protection. He has taken some of the strongest pro-conservation positions in the country.

**FOR CONGRESS BILL RICHARDSON  
(3rd District)**

Richardson supports strong Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, opposes Watt's wilderness policies and has called for Watt's resignation; has proposed a new congressional watchdog committee to ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Dept. are strictly implementing federal environmental laws.

**LAND COMMISSIONER JIM BACA**

Baca pledges that public information and participation will be primary goals; stresses long-term planning. "If public lands are not conserved and the environment taken into consideration, nothing will be left for future generations."

**ATTORNEY GENERAL PAUL BARDACKE**

Paul has pledged that environmental interests will get their day in court if he is Attorney General; will take the offensive to protect New Mexico's water in lawsuits with other states; will strictly enforce environmental laws and regulations.

## CHARLES WEDDLE: THE FUTURE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Charles Weddle ("It rhymes with meddle.") was the feature speaker at the annual meeting in Magdalena. He has been a plant breeder and horticulturalist for many years and has worked for several seed companies, including Ball Seed. He currently owns and operates Weddle Laboratories in Palisade, CO, which specializes in drought and salt tolerant plants. The company motto is "We grow what sells, but we sell what grows!" The following are excerpts from his talk on the future of native plants and from an interview with Mr. Weddle.

Why natives? Most of our cultivated plants have taken thousands of years to become what they are today. Only recently have they re-discovered the wild ancestor of corn. Civilizations have come and gone based on plants such as corn, potato, etc. Perhaps we could have a saltbush (*Atriplex*) civilization. Man has brought plants westward, even those not always adapted to the new climate. This has been perpetuated. Nurseries buy and sell what they can get from major suppliers (usually located in California or Texas), and they won't sell anything that they don't know.

Why are we interested in natives? First, they're already adapted to the area and they often use less water. They're more challenging; we already know how to grow petunias and snapdragons. But best of all, they are suitable to the Southwest and to our Southwestern architecture. Native plants are also beautiful and I'm surprised that Horticulture hasn't discovered them sooner.

As an ornamental horticulturalist and a plant breeder I look at all plants with a horticulturalist's eye. Does it have appeal, is there a niche for it? Does the plant have good horticultural characteristics, ease of growing and good growth habit? American people love color, the more there is, the better they like it. Color is the result of time and square inches. For example, irises bloom for a about a week, maybe two, then you have 50 weeks of no blooming color. Paperflower (*Psilostrophe*) only blooms for 2 weeks in the wild, but with additional water and some shearing, it can bloom all summer.

As a plant breeder, I have bred flowers for color and seed and now there are many varieties of petunias and snapdragons. People want us to find something new. We haven't had a new cut flower in a long time-- perhaps it's time for a native. We all know that natives are highly variable and this makes them exciting to breeders. There are three species of Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) growing in an area of Colorado, each adapted to specific conditions. Nature has done the breeding work. It only remains for us to learn how to propagate and grow them. Breeding programs to upgrade species are being conducted for such species as tulip gentians and columbines. Most of these are intraspecific, that is, within the species, hybrids.

Working with snapdragons has benefitted my work with Penstemons because I understand the family very well. This could be done with other related genera. I love Penstemons because there are so many species and if I had 100 years, I would work on some of them. There was a Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station worker who worked on penstemons for 30 years, but nothing came of it. This is sad because his research would provide valuable clues and could be continued today.

Some one needs to finance research on native plants, both for public good and private gain. Such questions as "How do you germinate this?, When do you take cuttings?, Can you take cuttings?, and Where is it adapted?" need well organized applied research to develop answers. Conventional institutions will do some of the work, but there is much for the curious individual to do. Amateurs selecting for the cultivated Texas bluebonnet have found an inoculum to help with the germination of the seed.

Good research begins with searching the literature for what has been written. We need someone, a PhD student perhaps, to compile the literature that is available. Several government agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have published information on natives from their own bias. No one has compiled anything on the ornamental aspect. We need to get this information together.

## MISTLETOES OF NEW MEXICO

For some time, Del Wiens of the University of Utah and I have been studying the mistletoes of the western United States and Mexico, so Roger Peterson asked me to comment on the mistletoe treatment in Martin and Hutchins' 1980 "Flora of New Mexico." My first comment is on the family name. The raising of the former subfamilies Viscoideae and Loranthoideae to family status had generally been accepted. This places the two U.S. genera (*Phoradendron* and *Arceuthobium*) in the Viscadeae. The Lorahtaceae, in the strict sense, is more tropical.

### 1. PHORADENDRON. Mistletoe

Wiens and I recognize 6 taxa in New Mexico compared to 10 listed by Martin and Hutchins. A simple key for the identification of the 6 taxa is:

- A. Plants essentially leafless, leaves reduced to minute scales.
    - B. Parasitic on desert legumes..... 1. *P. californicum*
    - B. Parasitic on *Juniperus*..... 2. *P. juniperinum*
  - A. Plants with leaves.
    - C. Leaves over 1 cm wide, parasitic on deciduous trees.
      - D. Leaves densely pubescent, 1.5-3.0 cm long 1.0-2.0 cm wide, mainly on oaks..... 3. *P. coryae*
      - D. Leaves glabrous or slightly pubescent, 2.0-5.0 cm long and 1.5-3.0 cm wide, mainly on *Populus*..... 4. *P. macrophyllum*
    - C. Leaves less than 0.5 cm wide, parasitic on *Juniperus*.
      - E. Leaves and stems densely pubescent; leaves 1-2 mm wide..... 5. *P. capitellatum*
      - E. Leaves and stems essentially glabrous or slightly pubescent; leaves 1.5-3 mm wide..... 6. *P. hawksworthii*
1. *Phoradendron californicum* Nutt. This parasite of *Prosopis* and *Acacia* is a common Sonoran-Mojave desert plant that barely enters New Mexico along the Arizona border in extreme southwestern Hidalgo County. It occurs in the Guadalupe Canyon and Granite Pass areas (J.P. Hubbard, Native Plant Society Newsletter 6(6):3, 1981).
  2. *Phoradendron juniperinum* Engelm. This parasite of junipers is the most common mistletoe in New Mexico and it is found essentially throughout the State except in the eastern plains. We have 8 county records not listed by Martin and Hutchins (Map 311): Chaves, Dona Ana, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Luna, San Miguel, and Sierra.
  3. *Phoradendron coryae* Trel. This parasite of oaks, and sometimes other associated trees, occurs in southern New Mexico from Catron, Socorro, and Lincoln counties southward. We consider these 3 taxa listed by Martin and Hutchins to be synonyms of *P. coryae*: *P. harvardianum* Trel., *P. flavescens* var. *orbiculatum* Engelm., and *P. flavescens* var. *villosum* (Nutt.) Engelm. This mistletoe is frequently cited as *P. villosum* Nutt. subsp. *coryae* (Trel.) Wiens.

4. *Phoradendron macrophyllum* (Engelm.) Cockll. is found in southwestern New Mexico (Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Dona Ana counties) and up the Rio Grande valley nearly to Bernalillo. Its main host is cottonwood but it also parasitizes willow, elm, mesquite and other trees, particularly in the south. We consider these 2 taxa listed by Martin and Hutchins to be synonyms of *P. macrophyllum*: *P. flavescens* (Pursh) Nutt. var. *macrophyllum* Engelm., and *P. flavescens* var. *pubescens* Engelm.
5. *Phoradendron hawksworthii* Wiens (Ined.). This parasite of junipers was first mentioned by Wiens in his mistletoe treatment in Correll and Johnston's 1970 Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas, but a formal description of it is still in press. The plant is found east of the Rio Grande in the Organ and Sacramento Mountains (in Dona Ana, Lincoln, and Otero counties), and is common in West Texas and northern Coahuila. The questionable specimen (Hutchins 2434) from near Carrizozo noted by Martin and Hutchins under *P. bolleanum* var. *capitellatum* is this taxon.  
*Phoradendron bolleanum* var. *bolleanum* is listed by Martin and Hutchins but this is a Mexican mistletoe that does not occur in New Mexico. It is a reddish plant that parasitizes *Arbutus* as well *Juniperus*.

## 2. ARCEUTHOBIUM. Dwarf mistletoe

The treatment of this genus, which recognizes 6 taxa from New Mexico, is from our monograph (USDA Agric, Handbook 401, 1972) and I have little to add except some new county distributional records. However, a word of caution might be in order in Martin and Hutchins' key because it relies heavily on hosts. While the dwarf mistletoes are generally host-specific, some taxa are not exclusively so; e.g., *Arceuthobium douglasii* occurs on *Abies concolor* and *A. lasiocarpa* in several locations in New Mexico but usually where this tree is mixed with infected *Pseudotsuga*. To use the keys it is thus more important to know the principal hosts in the area than the hosts of a particular collection.

4. *Arceuthobium douglasii* Engelm. An addition to Map 315 is Hidalgo County (Animas Mountains). This dwarf mistletoe occurs in Guadalupe National Park in Texas so may be found in the Guadalupe Mountains in adjacent Eddy County, New Mexico. *A. douglasii* has been reported in the Organ Mountains of Dona Ana County, but I've seen no specimen from there.
5. *Arceuthobium divaricatum* Engelm. An addition to Map 315 is Dona Ana County (Jornada Experimental Range). The main host is *Pinus edulis* but it also parasitizes *P. discolor* (= *P. cembroides* var. *bicolor*) near Fort Bayard and in the Mule Mountains.
6. *Arceuthobium microcarpum* (Engelm.) Hawksw. & Wiens. A disjunct population of this parasite of *Picea engelmannii* was recently discovered by Dr. R.L. Mathiasen of the University of Arizona in the Hay Canyon area of the Sacramento Mountains in Otero County. This location is nearly 300 km from the previously known locations of this species in the Mogollon Mountains.

Two other dwarf mistletoes occur near New Mexico and may be found in the State: *A. abietinum* Engelm. ex Munz, a parasite of *Abies concolor* in the Chiricahua mountains in southeastern Arizona; and *A. cyanocarpum* Coulter & Nelson, a parasite of *Pinus flexilis* and *P. aristata* near La Veta Pass in southern Colorado.

Frank G. Hawksworth, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

FELIZ NAVIDAD -- HAPPY NATIVE-ITY

Christmas shopping for plant lovers is easy. Here are some suggestions for gift giving to your native plant loving friends:

1. Membership in NPS - an \$8 subscription fee expresses your thoughtful greeting via the bi-monthly newsletter, and puts your native plant lover in touch with many nice people with similar interests.
2. Desert Plants, a quarterly journal published by the U. of Arizona for Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum, PO Box AB, Superior AZ 85273 (about \$12). Seeds of many native & adaptable plants are also available from the Curator of Botany at the same mailing address.

3. National Geographic Weekly Engagement Calendar - picturing the Wildflowers of N. America -- a beautifully illustrated and practical gift. It is available from the Glenn Niner Chapter at a special discount price to NPS members, \$6. (see our ad).

4. Many books are available through local & university bookstores. They can range from the very expensive Flora of New Mexico 2 volume set at around \$200 to the inexpensive paperbacks from Southwest Monuments Series: Flowers of the SW Deserts, Mesas, Mountains (3 books at around \$3.50 each). Other books are: Roadside Wildflowers of New Mexico, by Fox & Sublette (around \$6), Samuel Lamb's Woody Plants of the Southwest (around \$15), Trees & Shrubs of the Southwestern Deserts by Benson & Darrow (around \$50) and Robert Vines' Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines of the Southwest (around \$50).

5. For gardeners, gifts of seeds or plants give years of pleasure. See the Sept.-Oct. newsletter supplement for local sources of native plants & seeds. Gift certificates are often available.

6. You can also make a contribution to a conservation group or natural history organization in someone's name.

7. How about a relaxing weekend at Bear Mountain Guest Ranch seeing the sights?

There are also perfumes made from desert flowers, botanical prints & original drawings and paintings, and a gardener's diary to keep track of the growing seasons (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 255 Gracie Station NY NY 10028 \$12.95 plus handling).

If you're long on good wishes but short of funds, you can put together a packet of free or nearly free information from the County Extension Office, Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station and other non-profit sources.

Merry Christmas from all of us in NPS to all of you!



"Wildflowers of North America"

National Geographic

1983 Engagement Calendar

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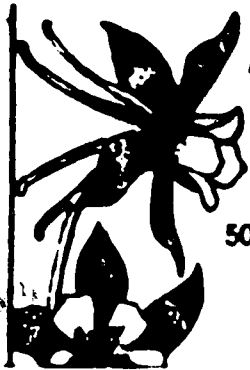


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check to the above address.

	Interested	Willing to help
Landscaping with Native plants		
Conservation/Ecology		
Rare or Endangered plants		
Photography, slide collection		
Field trip		
Program planning		
Newsletter: Writing		
Mailing		
Clerical		
Membership Committee		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip





As I look into my Flower Breeder's Crystal Ball, I see many things happening. We have had our pioneers, such firms as Plants of the Southwest and Native Plants, Inc. Next there are the imitators, then the retailers will pick it up and want more sources. The demand and need is here. The more people in the business, the better. Almost all nurseries will offer collections of natives, at first in small amounts because they're afraid they won't grow. But interest will grow and soon I suspect we will have someone growing natives in every area. We'll begin to have specialists; people growing only *Atriplex* or *Cercocarpus* much like we have people who only grow roses. The business will grow.

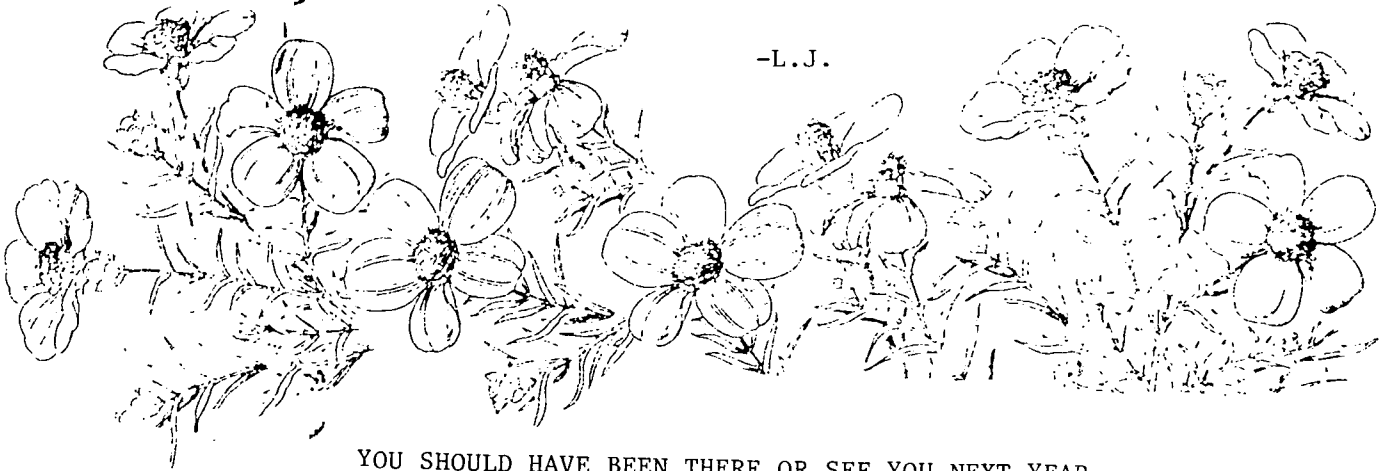
There is currently a way to get a native plant into the trade. It can be entered in the All-American Trials. The cost is \$200 per trial and anyone can enter. We've already had a native win. Several years ago, the Tansy aster (*Machaeranthera*) was an All-American winner, submitted by a Colorado State University worker. Another good candidate, I think, would be the Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), even

though the All-American trials are biased toward annuals.

There are other promising things happening. The National Parks System tries to protect the natives in its parks. Highway departments in several states including New Mexico are not mowing along roads as often as they used to. Several housing developments require the owners to maintain a natural landscape and where water is scarce, this is especially true. Landscape designers are beginning to put natives in their designs, and the contractors are able to supply them.

Native Plant Societies can do many things to promote native plants. Put pressure on the highway department to continue its less frequent mowing, let them know what you like and don't like. Try to get a Wildflower Day designated by the State Legislature, it worked in Texas! Coordinate plant digs to remove plants that would be destroyed by new construction. Offer a scholarship or an award for a paper, project or research done on native plants. Best of all, talk to other people about natives, get together and share your experiences. It enriches us all.

-L.J.



YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE OR SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

This year's statewide meeting at Magdalena was a tremendous success. I went to find out what other growers have been experiencing and to attach faces to the names I'd been meeting through the newsletter. Immediate gratification on both counts. There were people from all over the state—Santa Fe comparing notes with Silver City, Alamogordo with Albuquerque and Las Cruces with Loco Hills. Lots of note comparing and note taking.

The propagation discussions provided a

flood of information. Courtesy of the propagators at Plants of the Southwest, we learned that acid scarification improves Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*) germination. Jim Sais, NMSU extension horticulturalist, suggested paring down excess callus tissue from heavily calloused but stubborn rooting hardwood cuttings, as excess scar tissue may interfere with rooting. The gardeners of the Otero-Lincoln Chapter are going to keep records of their efforts to grow natives, an idea suggested to them by Tom Wooten of Dry Country Plants.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE continued

Imagine the wealth of information we could collate if all our "growing" members would record the date & location of seed or cutting collection, pretreatment of the material (stratification, scarification, hormone dips etc.), sow date and subsequent temperature, germ or rooting rate and percentages and any other specifics that might prove useful. Learning from each other's trials can take some of the sting out of 10% germ rates and rootless cuttings. John Egbert reported *Penstemon pseudospectabilis* soft tips rooting easily in sand covered with plastic bag tents. Such alternate propagation methods are particularly useful on plants like *Penstemon*, whose seed requires at least a year of afterripening for good germination. Erica Enyart, Entrada Greenhouses contractor & landscaper, provided a counterpoint to the growers' point, emphasizing the need to improve availability of containerized native landscape ornamentals, especially in larger sizes. The discussion could have gone on for days.

The field trips led by BLM botanist & NPS member, Laird McIntosh, painlessly covered extended terrain--from the arroyo winding through the ghost town of Kelly (pinon-juniper), to the rocky slopes of Box Canyon (upper Chihuahuan Desert), to the wealth of Water Canyon (oak to Conifer). Laird's ability and willingness to identify & discuss the varied plant life surveyed was equally satisfying to the novices and professionals among us. Thrill seekers could have wrestled a sleepy rattlesnake, but there were no challengers.

The evening with plant breeder Charles Weddle, (see feature article-interview) provided a perspective on the future of natives in horticulture. Given the benefit of Mr. Weddle's long career in the field of ornamentals, spanning more than fifty years including his "first retirement" from the Burpee Seed Co. in the '40s to his current interest in improved native ornamentals, his observations of the direction native horticulture could & should take are particularly valuable.

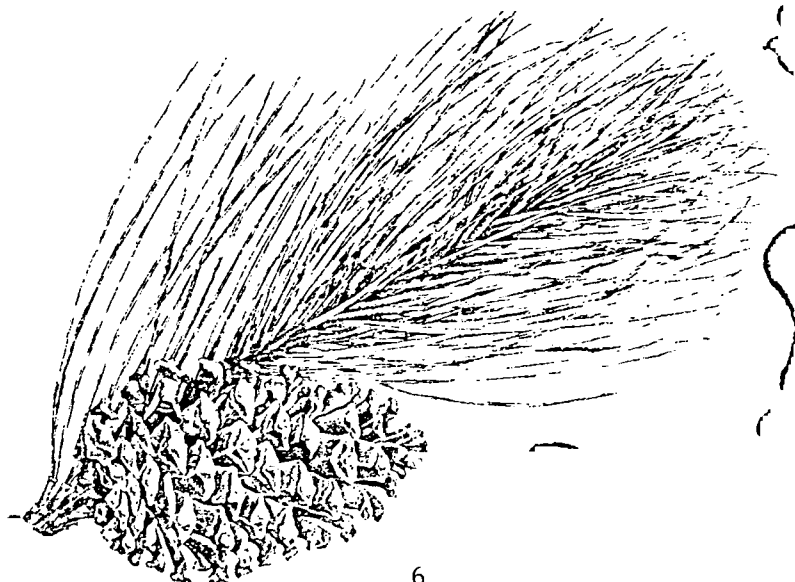
Roger Peterson presented the state-of-the-state on conservation issues. The most valuable contribution we can each make is to contact the agencies and let them know how we feel. Such topics as the 10 year plan for each of the national forests, proposed wilderness sites, and sites not yet proposed should have and need your comments.

The business meeting netted a new By-Laws Committee, chaired by Ted Hodoba (Albuq.) & Pam Ray (Silver City area), a step toward clarifying the legal posture of NPS.

If a score of concurrent conversations covering some aspect of native flora couldn't contain you, and a field trip wasn't in progress, there was a ready supply of publications to peruse and Frances Szeman's solar dyed wools (featured in the July/Aug newsletter) on display. No one looked apathetic.

Our thanks to Bill Mayfield, prime mover and em-cee of the event, Lisa Johnston, coordinator and able handler-of-the-details, and everyone who made a fall weekend in Magdalena such a celebration.

-J.P.



The October meeting highlighted our members in our Show & Tell meeting. Everyone was encouraged to bring something to share. Jim & Diane Lube brought some excellent slides from their large collection and everyone tried to identify the few unknown ones. Walter Graf brought many of his pencil sketches of plants. Most were done while he was on camping trips throughout the state. Frances Szeman's solar dyed wools were a colorful addition too. Several other people brought books and pamphlets to show and share. Everyone had a great time discovering the hidden talents of our members and we plan to "Show & Tell" again.

-T.H.

## LAS CRUCES

The Las Cruces Chapter has been quite active. On September 25 we had a field trip to Bailey Canyon near Cloudcroft. Several plants were blooming including desert marigolds and clover. Since we were in pine forest, the conditions created from recent rains were ideal for finding fungi. Those interested in fungi gathered samples of nearly 20 species. We were able to identify some, but there are still several that we couldn't identify.

October 13 was a regular meeting with Dr. Suberkropp, a NMSU biologist, speaking on his research concerning fungi found in streams.

-J.L.

## OTERO-LINCOLN

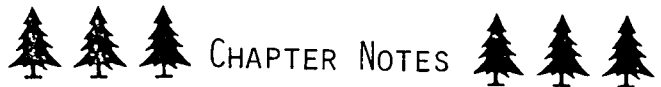
On October 17 we met at Bill Mayfield's to view slides from the Plant Materials Center in Los Lunas. It was interesting to note how many of the plants were growing on members' properties and they hadn't known what they were. The Chapter will also begin an information gathering campaign as follows:  
Identification: Take slides and identify plant and site. Propagation: Record the following--name of plant, date collected, site description, pretreatment, sowing date, germination time, & first transplant. This information will be gathered both for the local chapter and for the state organization.

Have a happy holiday season, our next meeting won't be until February.

-J.D.

Ted Hodoba, one of our Albuquerque members shared pictures and information about his trip this summer to the National Arboretum and the National Botanic Gardens in Washington D.C. The National Botanic Gardens are located in downtown Washington, right by the Capitol. There are large collections of plants in the old conservatory style--everything from palms and other tropicals to cacti and succulents. The National Arboretum is located further out, but is still surrounded by city. Some of the special exhibits include an herb garden with several sections, azaleas, day-lilies, and the National Bonsai Collection with plants up to 300 years old. There is always something happening here. April or May are the two best months to go, but don't neglect these two spots the next time you're in Washington!

-L.J.



## SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

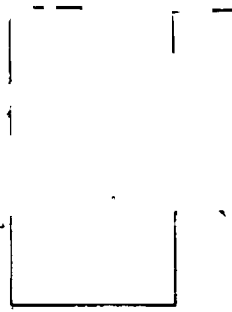
Native grasses were the focus of the October meeting of the Southeast Chapter. Jack Greathouse opened the session with a brief talk on the identification of grasses illustrated by a collection of 25 grass sheaf samples. Rip Curtis of Curtis & Curtis Inc., Clovis, spoke about grasses from the standpoint of the seed grower and supplier. A field trip to Rogers gave members an opportunity to observe a 20 acre planting of buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*) at the Massey residence. Seeded in 1970, the planting includes the yard around the home, a wide border around the yard and an adjoining airstrip and provides thick, appealing groundcover with only the available rainfall. Back in Portales at the Greathouse residence, members viewed floral arrangements designed with the native grasses of Roosevelt County. The delicate, open panicle and purplish color of Sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*) was the most popular of the natives used.

-Courtesy of Jack Greathouse and the Portales News-Tribune.

THIRD CLASS

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