Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

November/December 1993 Volume XVIII Number 6

MONARDAS:

Medicinal mints of distinction

by Dyanne Fry Cortez

In 1773, Amencan colonists expressed their feelings about British taxes by sinking a few shiploads of tea in Boston Harbor. Afterward, some took to filling their cups with a native American substitute: Oswego tea, brewed from the wild mint *Monarda didyma.*

Most areas of the United States are home to one or more species of *Monarda,* known more or less interchangeably as bergamot, beebalm, or horsemint.

M. menthaefolia hugs the slopes and sheltered meadows of the Rocky Mountains. *M. pectinata,* the plains beebalm, prefers the southwestern deserts and central plains. *M. citriodora,* also called lemon-mint, dots pastures and roadsides all over Texas. *M. didyma,* perhaps the showiest of the lot with its long scarlet flowers, grows in the moist woodlands of the Great Lakes region.

Their dense flower clusters appear in late spring, in shades of purple or pink to almost white, or sometimes red. Some will bloom throughout the summer and into the fall. Like most of their cousins in the mint family, the horsemints are strongly aromatic, and most have medicinal uses. The Cherokee brewed a tea from *M. fistulosa* to treat heart trouble and fevers, and to promote restful sleep. Beebalm teas have been said to relieve coughs, rheumatism, and gastric distress. Spotted beebalm *(M. punctata)* contains the antiseptic thymol, also found in Old World thyme.

Like other mints, the *Monardas* have square stems and opposite leaves, with one pair of leaves positioned at right angles to the next. Flowers are typical, with five petals fused into a two-lobed tube. The upper lobe stands upright or arches. The lower droops, rather like the lower petal of an orchid. There are four long stamens, two functional and two rudimentary, attached to the throat of the tube.

It's the arrangement of the flowers that really gives horsemints their distinctive appearance. They're packed in tight whorls, with a cluster of leaf-like bracts below each one. Some species (such as *M. fistulosa* and *M. menthaefolia)* form a single, terminal whorl. Others, including *M. citriodora,* will stack three or four on a stem that may stand up to three feet tall.

The genus was named for Nicolas Monardes, physician to King Philip of Spain, who wrote about New World plants in the late 16th century. But it was John Tradescant, royal gardener to England's Charles I, who took home samples of *M. fistulosa* in 1637. It still grows in English gardens today, along with tame varieties of *M. didyma* (exported in 1744).

White settlers in America also liked growing these mints, and may have helped spread them beyond their native ranges. *M. fistulosa,* for example, can be found from Florida to Quebec (and as far as West Texas), but it's considered an introduced species in the northeast.

Inside...

The common name "bergamot" is borrowed from the bergamot orange (*Citrus bergamia*) of the Mediterranean, in honor of the nose-tingling fragrances of some species. The scents attract bees and butterflies, but are said to repel biting insects such as mosquitoes. Try throwing a few blooms in your campfire or rubbing the crushed leaves on your skin.

Some say the name "horsemint" refers to the plant's comparatively large size. Others cite its "coarse, unruly appearance, which resembles a horse's spreading tail." Today, with the growing interest in wildflowers, a lot of us have learned to accept a little unruliness in exchange for natural beauty.

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The **Newsletter** is published six times per year by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species.

Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges and a wide selection of books available at discount.

We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

We maintain a register of business and professional people who are members and can supply information and services related to native plants. To be added to this roster or to request information, contact the Membership Secretary.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost $40 per year.

Schedule of Membership Fees

Dues are $10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of $25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 443 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Dec. 1.

What is a Native Plant?

Does that seem like a dumb question? We all know without doubt that [to Arizona] a saguaro is a native plant while a salt-cedar is not. Native plants are like love or sleep. If you are the type that has to define them, you obviously don't know what they are. If you have ever tried to write an ordinance dealing with revegetation issues, you have probably had the embarrassing experience of discovering that you aren't so sure after all. Let's look at some attempted definitions:

1. Native plants are the "common plants generally found in an area." These include palo verde, desert-marigold, mesquite, saguaro, ponderosa pine, tumbleweed, lovegrass——whoops.

2. Native plants are "those plants that arrived in our area on their own and were not introduced by man." This raises problems of knowing what plants were actually introduced by man, especially pre-Spanish man. Perhaps mescal or a yucca was cultivated by the Hohokam. Does anyone have a good species list from 1066 or 1492?

3. Native plants are " those plants that arrived in an area on their own and were not introduced by man in the last 100 years." Isn't this one a bit eurocentric? What is botanically different about plants introduced by Anglos as opposed to O'Odham? Or is the difference the number of generations?

Now let's look at the dictionary definition of a native: "Being such by birth or origin." If we used that definition, an exotic plant would become native in the second generation, just as a native Arizonan is one born here even if the parents came from Peoria. (The only real Native Americans, however, are those whose ancestors arrived here before the conquest.) That doesn't work.

How about "Originating, growing or produced in a certain place; indigenous as opposed to exotic or foreign.~ That has all the problems of the definition above, except it does not include those "introduced from outside.~ Since a lot of southern Arizona species arrived within the past 10,000 years, they would technically be indigenous. Actually, ~indigenous" is probably closest to what we really mean, but would you prefer to belong to the "Indigenous Plant Society?"

"Who cares?" you say. ~I know what I mean." Sure but put that into an ordinance. Try telling someone in the construction business that they must revegetate with native plants, without telling him or her what natives are. And try taking him or her to court for the crime of planting a nonnative, without being able to prove that that plant really is non-native—and to do that you need to know what a native is.

Of course you could just list them, but that brings up another problem. Any list is bound to exclude someone's favorite species unless it is many pages long. And one has to have good reasons for putting plants on a list or leaving them off. I actually saw a list of natives for Pima County which included the Canary Island Palm. Who am I to say that's not now native?

One legal attempt to define native referred to plants naturally found within a certain number of feet of the property in question. Plants may be native to riparian areas, but not surrounding lands. And that would mean the creosote flats would have to be revegetated with creosote where the landscaper might have preferred saguaros.

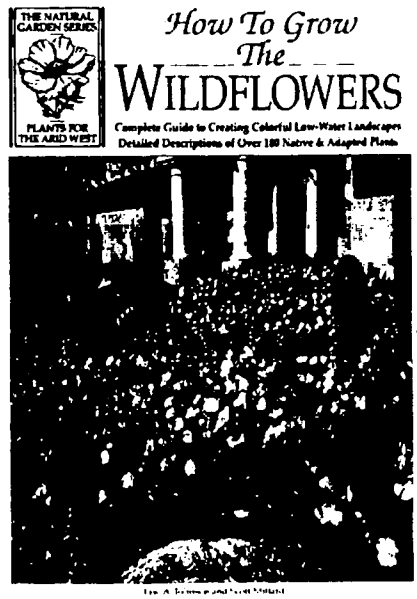
I think you get the picture. Now that the Society has a position on revegetation and a strong statement of principles, it would help to know what we are talking about.

by Barbara Tellman, from The Plant Press, the Arizona Native Plant Society, Vol. 16, No. 3, Fall, 1992

Book Review

How to Grow the Wildflowers by Eric Johnson and Scott Millard. 1993. Tucson, Ironwood Press.

This is the third in the series "Plants for the Arid West". It is the type of book that many native plant lovers will welcome, particularly, for it's individual treatment of the growth requirements of so many wildflowers. Geographically, the work covers New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California..



Introductory chapters cover aspects of natural communities, climate considerations, microhabitats, and design basics. A sample design provides ideas for plant material as well as sizes to transplant, spacing, and quantities to seed. Readers are encouraged to take natures cues, be informal, observe natural settings, and get to know the "sense of place" in one's own region.

Over 150 plant species are covered. Conveniently arranged by genus, each entry provides growth habit; season; soil, planting, and care requirements; water use; sun requirements; area of origin; common names; and other useful information about the plant's history and use in horticulture. An accompanying table that lists flower colors, seasons, and heights should prove quite useful.

There seems to be some innacuracy/confusion in designating areas from which the plants are native. For example, *Silene* is listed as native to California. It would be helpful for readers to know that it is also native to New Mexico and other states. In addition, California enjoys the lions share of entries. Purists will regret that many entries, perhaps 25% are not even native to the United States. Other species are not from the "arid west" but from eastern U.S.. Nevertheless, this work will prove useful especially for it's method of presenting the information. And yes, you will find many favorite species from your area listed as well as others you may have liked to try but had little information about. Recommended highly.

T. McKimmie

CALENDAR

OTERO

13 November. Annual Potluck at the Red Barn, 9 mi. e of Cloudcroft. Bring your calendars to plan for 1994. Noon.

GILA

14 November. Field trip to Georgetown area. 9 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Bldg.

LAS CRUCES

10 November, Potluck. St. James Episcopal. SE corner Main and University. 6 P.M.

1 Dec. 1994 Planning Meeting. NMSU Ag. Bldg. Rm 200. 7:30 p.m.

SANTA FE

17 November. "The Plant Communities of White Rock Canyon" by Dorothy Hoard. 7:30 p.m. St. Johns College, Evens Science Lab. Bldg. Rm. 122.

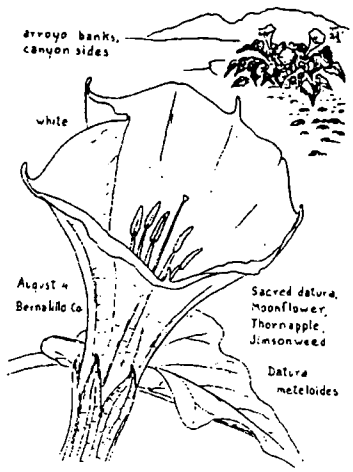
The Children Who Knew Too Much:

More on *Datura meteloides*

by Carol B. Brandt

In our last newsletter we read an article by Michael Plagens on **The Sacred Apple**. I would like to compliment his natural history of *Datura* with an ethnobotanical perspective. It is important to realize that this is a very powerful plant and that **ALL** portions of this plant are poisonous, not just the tubers as cited by Plagens.

This beautiful plant is held in high esteem at the Pueblo of Zuni. Even the creation story of this plant is laden with respect and reverence for the power of *Datura*. In Zuni mythology, *Datura* originated in the time when "the earth was still soft", when things now impossible took place. Two curious children, a sister and brother, often wandered among the gods and carefully observed everything that went on around them. Like most children, they mindlessly babbled about what they had seen and heard. One day they happened to meet the Twin War Gods and told them how they "could make one sleep and see ghosts, and how they could make one walk about a little and see one who had committed theft." The War Gods were deeply disturbed that these children were jabbering and telling their most guarded religious secrets to whomever they met. The Twin War Gods decided that these children held too much dangerous knowledge and that they should be banished from earth forever. Flowers emerged at the spot where the two children disappeared, bearing the beautiful blossoms that they had worn in their hair.



The knowledge of medicinal and religious uses involving *Datura* are carefully guarded at Zuni. Only the rain priests were allowed to use this plant. Both Frank Cushing and Mathilda Stevenson, early anthropologists at Zuni, noted examples where *Datura* was utilized as a local and general anesthetic for surgery. This plant was also used for helping people to "find" lost items. A priest would go into a trance after consuming *Datura*, and he would be able to "see" the location of the lost possessions or a person responsible for the theft. The active chemical in *Datura* is atropine, an antimuscarinic alkaloid which can cause tachycardia, hallucinations, delirium, coma, and death.

Contrary to the encouragement in the article by Plagens, I would like to caution the use of *Datura* as an ornamental. Although I, too, marvel at the natural and cultural history of this plant, it is much too poisonous to be planted in an area where children or pets may accidentally consume it. Also, for those who explore herbal medicine, one should **never** experiment with *Datura*. As the myth from the Zuni Pueblo teaches us, *Datura* is to be respected: it has the power to be the vessel of life, or it can usher death.

Carol Brandt is an ethnobotanist for the Pueblo of Zuni, Zuni Archaeology Program.

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

This years festival will be held November 19-21. NPSNM will have an information booth from 9a.m. to 4 p.m. on saturday and sunday. If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours to work the booth please contact your chapter representative or a board member or call Tim McKimmie at 524-0401.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero-Jean Dodd

In spite of torrential rains the Otero trip Aug. 27-29 to the Magdalena area was a great success because of the beauty of Water Canyon, the diverse quantity of blooming native plants, and the friendly helpfulness of fellow campers. Phil Dano of the Cibola Forest Office in Magdalena took us out on Saturday morning for a short walk pointing out the totally different vegetation on the north and south slopes of the canyon.The canyon bottom is a riparian area with a greater amount of vegetation than the slopes.

Some of the trees are gray and Gambel oak, N.M.Locust, BoxElder Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon, Juniper, Aspen, White Fir, Limber Pine, Arroyo Willow, Black Walnut, and both narrow leaf and broad leaf cottonwood.

Up the road from the campgrounds is the Langmuir Laboratory at 9,000' which is used for studying lightning. See "National Geographic" July '93 for lightning studies. West of Magdalena is the Very Large Array-the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. There are 9 antennas with dish shaped reflectors that are 82' in diameter. They study stars, planets, the Milky Way, and the most distant galaxies.

Just before the VLA on Hwy 60 there were miles of golden sunflower-type plants! At the turnoff to the VLA the predominant plant was the tall, lavender Rocky Mountain Bee Plant-Cleome serrulata. On the drive to the VLA the weather shifted from pouring down rain to clear. If you are keeping track of good times to see blooming plants along 60 & 380, the end of August is certainly the time. At Water Canyon you will find picnic tables, places to camp, restrooms, and hiking trails as well as places to just roam around and admire the wide variety of plants.

Albuquerque - Lu Bennett

At our August meeting we viewed a University of Arizona film, Xeriscape: The Emerging Frontier. The educational video emphasizes the importance of planning, soil improvements and selection of plants. It also covers irrigation and mulching very effectively. The City of Albuquerque is proposing a Water Conservation Landscaping Ordinance that applies only to commercial landscaping. A plant list is included the draft ordinance. The list is intended to be a "working list" to use not an all-inclusive list. The list was developed by Dr Lynn Doxon, a NMSU Horticulture Specialist.

The plant sale in August at the Albuquerque Garden Center was a great success. Chamisa, Desert Willow, Broom Dalea and Penstemons are very popular in this area.

In September, our chapter discussed composting and the Albuquerque Recycling program. The program recycles paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastic. A possible composting program would prohibit organic material such as leaves, grass clippings, and pruned branches from being sent to the landfill. Each neighborhood would have a location such as a school yard where the material could be taken for pickup and composting. This discussion will continue.

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford

On August 11th, Storm Sermay gave a presentation on "New Mexico Wilderness." Ms.Sermay is an active board member of the BLM Wilderness Coalition which includes our chapter of the Native Plant Society. The Wilderness Act of 1964 states that in order to be so classified, an area must be 5,000 acres or more and be totally natural. There can be no permanent structures and mechanized vehicles will be prohibited in these areas. Some 2.3 million acres in Southwestern New Mexico are recommended for "Wilderness" status by the coalition. Ms. Sermay showed beautiful slides of some of these recommended areas in the Hatchet Mountains, Granite Gap, Lower Box of the Gila, Cooke's Range, Florida Mountains, Carrizozo Lava Flow, Las Uvas Mountains petroglyphs, Robledos Mountains, and Organ Mountains.

The field trip on August 15th started in late afternoon with tours of native plants at the homes of four local members. The Shelford home had cacti and succulents as well as wildflowers in front and back and an area of native habitat on one side. The Wootten home had many rare and endangered native plants and trees along with two of the largest Arizona Cypress seen in this area. The Reutzel home had a large number of Arizona cacti and succulents, including saguaros, which they had successfully grown among many native plants. We enjoyed our potluck supper on the patio of the Beattie home in the midst of a collection of native cacti, wildflowers and trees.

28 August. Eight of us ventured into the southeast part of the rugged Florida mountains. We observed the follwing plants in flower. Two species of Devils claw (*Proboscidea*), Jackass clover, *Jatropha macrorhiza*, *Penstemon thurberi*, *P. barbatus*, Zinnia (2), paper flower, blackfoot daisy, *Talinum aurantiacum*, menodora, *Kallestromia* (2), cassia, *Cucurbita digitata*, *C. foetisissima*, desert willow, blue trumpets, Commelina, bird foot morning glory, Chinese hat and more. On the return some of us caught the duck races or antique shows in Deming.

8 Sept. Wm. Dick-Peddie, author of "New Mexico Vegetation, Past, Present and Future" addressed our meeting. There are several techniques for past vegetation pattern analysis:
a. Pre-settlement - pollen analysis from playas; pack rat midden (urine-resin preserves these); while pack rats don't take everything, extrapolation can be used to recreate past communities.
b. Last 1500 years - no major climate change so any change within last 200 years probably due to man. Early man, for example, spread mesuite beans.
c. Recent - The U.S. territorial survey noted the trees at each section corner. In N.M. few trees so they used stones, iron stakes; great deal of info, eg. location of grass, scrub, juniper; "Repeat photography"; In N.M. a lot of changes in last 100 yrs. By 1900 Wooton was already concerned about vegetation changes. Many types: grazing effects? fire? man? modification of water flow: Much depends on soil types, depths, existing plant communities.

Santa Fe - Nancy Daniel

On 16 June 1993 we had a real treat in the person of Steve Carey, lepidopterist. He presented a slide show on the butterflies of northern New Mexico at the Randall Davey Audobon Center. Many of the photographs were Steve's own and quite stunning. We did learn to distinguish between moths and butterflies.

On 26 June Steve led a butterfly field trip near Los Alamos and the following day another excursion along Tesuque Creek and Aspen Vista. The sun appeared and with it the butterflies. On the Tesuque Creek and Aspen Vista excursion approximately thirty-four species were identified including the Mexican Cloudywing, Edwards Skipperling, Green Skipper, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail, Juniper Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Variegated Fritillary, Mourning Cloak, Weidemayer's Admiral and California Sister. Plants on which the butterflies perched included *Petalostemum canidium*, *P. purpureum* and *Melilotus albus.*

Saturday, August 14, proved to be a perfect day for a walk in the woods above the Santa Fe Ski Basin in search of Fickle Fungi Fruits (mushrooms!). The ground had been well soaked by rains and the air was moist. Our guides and instructors were Nelson Jarmie and Fran Roger, of Los Alamos. They are doing a baseline survey of fungi on Bandelier and Laboratory land that may be useful in indicating soil changes. The previous Wednesday they had given us an introduction to fungi, reporting that there are about 70,000 known species and probably many more unidentified. Recommended books are Mushrooms Demystified by David Arora and the Audubon Field Guide to Mushrooms, both of which have excellent photographs and cover the most commonly found species. Each of us found at least one good-sized *Boletus edulis* and quite a few *Cantharellus cibarius* to take home and cook for supper. (I especially liked the Boletus!) We found some spectacular specimens of the brilliant red poisonous species, *Amanita muscaria*, and were cautioned to keep them well separated from our edible species. Others found were in the *Russula, Pholiota, Inosybe, Paniolus, Flammulina, Cortinarius, Laccaria* and *Lactarius* genera. Several that were new to our guides and some rare species were also found, so it was a rewarding expedition for all attending.

On August 1st Bob Sivinsky led our chapter on a walk in the white mesa area near San Ysidro (Sandoval County). Our first stop was along highway 44 where we saw *Ipomoea leptophylla* (Bush Morning Glory), *Psilostrophe tagetina* (Paperflower) *Heliotropium convolvulaceum* (Falsc Bindweed) *Petalostemum prostratum* (Creeping Prairie Clover) and *Oenothera coronopifolium* (Evening Primrose). The second stop was atop white mesa itself. This is an outcrop of Gypsum of the Todilto Formation laid down in the Jurassic Era. Gypsum soil tends to have a fairly specialised flora. Examples are *Aoronia bigelovii* (tufted Sand Verbena), *Townsendia gypsophylla* (Gypsum Townsendia) and two species which were unidentified, a *Mentzelia* (Blazing Star) and a *Phacelia* (Scorpionweed). We also saw *Eriogonum corymbosum* (Wild Buckwheat), *Cryptantha pustulosa* (Hidden-flower), *Astragalus kentrophylla* (Spiny Milkvetch) and *Tachelia hispidissima* (Bristly Coldenia) as well as a fantastic view of an almost undisturbed box canyon with white Gypsum on top and Red Entrada Sandstone below. Our third stop was at a spring west of San Ysidro. Because the water is salty we saw plants such as *Allenrolfia occidentalis*, *Oxytenia acerosa*, *Triglochin* sp., *Salicornia* sp., *Saueda* sp., *Frankenia jamesii*, and three (?) kinds of *Isocoma*. Two types of Isocoma were found on one plant, which made the group wonder about the validity of the separation.

September 25th was the Santa Fe Chapter's last field trip of the season and it ended in a grand manner. Over thirty people joined botanist Sean Houtman, Phil Clayton from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and BLM's Dan Armstrong to traverse a small area of the 55,000 acres that constitute Ball Ranch. The Ranch is located half way between Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Portions of the land are privately owned and the rest is BLM land designated ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern). Ball Ranch is home to natural springs, sandstone escarpments, tent rocks, badlands, fossils, petrified bones and wood, reptiles including an iridescent green ring-necked lizard, numerous hawks, coyotes and a diverse number of plants. Cattails and tules inhabit the riparian areas, as do *Forestiera neomexicana* (New Mexico Privet) and tamerisk. Grasses including little blue stem, sideoats grama, black grama, galleta grass, Indian ricegrass, alkali sacaton and ring muhly cover large expanses. Flowers such as *Cordylanthus wrightii* (Birdbeak), *Eriogonum* sp., *Polanisia trachyserma* (Clammyweed), *Mentzelia pumila* (Stickleaf), *Castilleja integra* (Indian Paintbrush) and *Ipomopsis multiflora* were still blooming. The rolling hills spotted with pinon & juniper and blanketed with grasses & flowers provided a sharp contrast to the high, angular, colored layers of mustard, red, pink, white and black earth of the badlands.

Flora Neomexicana: Sunflower Update

Robert Sivinski, NM Forestry Division

Exactly one year ago, I started this column with an article on the endangered puzzle sunflower *(Helianthus paradolus)*. To mark my anniversary, I am providing a brief update on this unique species - the message is a little more cheerful.

While returning to Santa Fe one friday afternoon from a trip to Carlsbad, I noticed a sign advertizing Blue Hole Spring in Santa Rosa. I had heard of this large spring and turned off to have a look at it. The spring was interesting (for scuba divers), but what really grabbed my attention was the wet, alkaline cienega below the spring. It was literally carpeted with the yellow heads of several hundred thousand puzzle sunflowers. This unique habitat is also home to the marsh-rosemary *(Limonium limbatum)*, the beautiful prairie gentian *(Eustoma russellianum)* and the sedge *Fimbristylis puberula*, which are uncommon in New Mexico. A quick survey of the area revealed several smaller patches of puzzle sunflower around the town in other cienega remnants and on the margins of a few sink hole ponds. I was amazed that it is the most common sunflower in the town of Santa Rosa.

Most of the natural spring cienegas in the vicinity of Santa Rosa are used for livestock pasture or mowed for hay, so it is difficult to determine how much more abundant the puzzle sunflower would be in the absence of livestock operations. Blue Hole Cienega is also in private ownership, but is not presently being grazed or mowed. Hopefully, it will remain in this pristine condition. Fortunately, there are several thousand sunflowers at the old Blue Hole Spring fish hatchery ponds which are owned by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and operated by the Town of Santa Rosa as a municipal fishing park. The puzzle sunflower still has a tenuous grip on coveted springs in a dry land, but I am a little more encouraged about its survival every time I see a another population.

REPORT ON THE STATE MEETING

The annual meeting of the NPSNM was held Sept. 10-12, 1993 in Las Cruces. The meetings were headquartered at the Mesilla Valley Inn and field trips took place in the Organ Mountains both east (Aguirre Springs) and west (Dripping Springs) side. Approximately 35 people registered for the meeting with a few others attending either the field trips or the board meeting.

The meetings began with a mixer friday evening. Here, folks from around the state exchanged greetings with old friends and got to know new ones. A silent auction and book sale took place as well. Saturday night at the banquet highlighted the NPSNM slide collection. Members brought some of their own slides as well.

Some of the plants seen in the Organs included beggar tick, alumroot, coffee fern, *Salvia pinquifolia, Schrophularia laevis*, monarda, hedeoma, scarlet gilia, *Sichyos*, and scarlet sage.

At the board meeting the following actions were taken:

1. Greg McGee, Las Cruces, was elected vice president.
2. Donations were made to the following organizations:
   a. Albuquerque Museum of Natural History.
   b. Albuquerque Native Plantings Landscaping Committee.
   c. Gila Watch
   d. Proyecto de Recurso Tarahumara

3. Santa Fe chapter agreed to host the next NPS Annual Meeting. It is planned to be held in or around Las Vegas, NM during the last weekend of August, 1994.

4. Next Board Meeting will be Feb. 12, 1994 at noon at the Bosque del Apache.

Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use his wonderful drawings from *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, second edition, in our *Newsletter*.

DID YOUR SCHOOLS GET POSTERS?

It is rumored that some schools in New Mexico did not receive the Wildflower posters that our society donated and delivered to the NM Dept. of Education this spring. If possible, please contact public schools in your area and inquire whether they received them. Posters should be displayed somehwere in the school. If not, contact Mr. Sam Ornelis in Santa Fe at 827-6579 or our poster chair, Ellen Wilde.

RECOMMENDED READING

"Beast in the Mirror" argues that the Chimp and man should both be included in the same genus. *Outside* 18(10):35, 1993. In the same issue is an article on the mushrooming value of wild fungi.

"A Few Good Grizzlies" describes one of the wildest areas left in the U.S., the San Juan mountains just to our north. *Audubon* 95(5):66, 1993.

"Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the American West". Random House. Wallace Stegner. 1992.

Albert Dobrenz dies.

Albert K. Dobrenz, professor of Plant Sciences at the University of Arizona, died August 27, 1993 at the age of 57. New Mexicans who attended the U of Arizona and took Plant Sciences courses, in particular the basic Botany course, will remember "Doc" Dobrenz. He provided the introduction to the plant world to thousands of students from around the world. He did his best to present information that could be exasperatingly difficult in a way that would encourage students to excel. Throughout his career, Dobrenz maintained an enthusiasm for basic botany in addition to his research on salt tolerance.

Views from the South

(One member's opinion)

Oh, woe is me. Frustration, frustration !

Last issue, I described the joint project between Otero and Las Cruces Chapters and Lincoln National Forest to do some noxious weed control. What do we get in return ? Reseeding of a burned area with seeds of **non-native** species. The Burgett timber sale on Lincoln National Forest is a salvage sale taking place after a significant area was burned near Mayhill. Our chapter comments addressed specifically two things described in the Environmental Assessment: The excessive amount of timber being removed from this highly erodable area and the planned reseeding with non native species. Actually four of the five species to be used for reseeding are not native to New Mexico. Our comments included sources of native plant seeds and the request that native warm season grasses and shrubs be included in the seed mix as well as cool season grasses and no non native species. The Forest Supervisor issued his decision to proceed as originally planned, with apparently no consideration of our input. Am I in a mood to encourage cooperation with Lincoln National Forest ? You guess.

Secondly, the Department of Interior has proposed range reform in a package entitled "Range Reform 94". The proposals fall far short of what we have requested, but do contain some excellent provisions. Enter the western Senators including our two. A moratorium of one year has been voted by the Senate, which would prohibit the Interior Department from spending any more funds on range reform proposals or **PUBLIC HEARINGS.** Please disregard all the money already spent by the Interior Department and citizens who traveled to the grazing hearings held all across the west. Please disregard public opinion. This is what the US Senate is saying. For four years I have watched the US House of Representatives pass a proposal to increase grazing fees. For four years I have seen inaction on the proposal in the Senate and the issue die in Conference Committee. Now we must wait, says the Senate, for another year while they try to answer not only the fee question but reform proposals as well. No thanks. We do not need another year of gridlock, nor do we need behind closed door decisions on range reform coming out or the Conference Committee. We should proceed with administrative proposals at this point. Congress can over ride if it so decides. To any member who is not aware, please know that this moratorium was sponsored by Senator Pete Domenici and co-sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman. A friend who watched the Senate session on television did relay that Bingaman really asked to co-sponsor only after the outcome was decided. Decisive move, Jeff.

Please write to the Lincoln National Forest expressing your disapproval of the use of non native seeds or plants in their restoration plans, and to both of our Senators for their strategy to keep our public land management living in the past. For more information contact your Chapter Conservation Chair or me.

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Honorable Senator Pete Domenici
Honorable Senator Jeff Bingaman
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Washington D.C. 20510

Tom Wootten
9/27/93

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