

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

November/December 1998

Volume XXIII Number 6

Four-winged Saltbush

by Joe Ideker

reprinted from the Native Plant Society of Texas Newsletter, 16(2):4, 1998

Four-winged Saltbush has found use as a hedge or an ornamental background for flower beds. This drought tolerant bush needs no watering once rooted, but light watering improves appearance and growth. It is an ideal xeriscape shrub unless one insists on showy flowers which it lacks. With taproots reaching down as far as 12 meters (40 feet), the extensive root system makes this drought resistant shrub useful in erosion control. It provides a palatable food of high nutritious value for cattle, sheep, goats, and deer, including both leaves and seed. But in a few scattered cases where too much may have been eaten, it has allegedly killed sheep and goats. It provides cover, shade, food, and roosts for birds like Scaled Quail

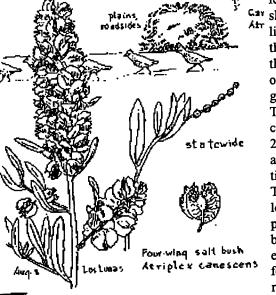
and small mammals such as Porcupines, Ground Squirrels, Rock Squirrels, and Jackrabbits. Caterpillars of the Pygmy Blue (Brephidium exile) and probably several skippers, consume the leaves. The pollen causes hay fever and thus is used in immunization extracts. The Gosiute Indians (of Utah) ground the seeds to use as a baking powder in bread making. It occurs on various soils including saline and alkaline soils of dry mesa, salt or alkaline valleys, sandy deserts, prairies, slopes, and hillsides from the wester lower Rio Grande Valley west into Arizona and California and north into South Dakota (the type locality), Alberta, and Washington. In Mexico, it occurs from Baja Califomia and Keyhole south into San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas at altitudes from 9 to 7,000 feet. The shrub is grayish, erect, evergreen, and loosely to densely branched. It can reach 2.5 meters (8 feet), but is usually I to 1.5 meters tall. Deep-rooted and variable in shape, it has brittle, gray-scurfy stems and thick, silvery-gray leaves. The four-winged fruit characterize Atriplex canescens, which is a member of the Chenopdiaceae (Goosefoot

Family). Atriplex comes from a Latinizing of the Greek word atraphaxys which means orach, (which is a vegetable of this genus), while the Latin canescens refers to the canescent (silvery or white) scurf of the leaves and stems. Four-winged Saltbush is called

Chamiso in Mexico.

It bears numerous, simple, alternate, evergreen, sessile or nearly so leaves. The linear to spatulate to oblong leaves have usually blunt tips, narrowed bases, and entire margins. They measure 1-5 cm (0.4 -2 inches) long and 0. 3-1.2 cm wide. Each thick leaf has one nerve and a dense, silvery-gray scurf on both surfaces which gradually becomes lost with age. The stout, terete, brittle, smooth, gray-scurfy twigs have a gray bark which exfoliates in thin layers when older. Four-winged Saltbush bears unisexual flowers usually on separate plants, rarely on the same, from April to October. The male flower heads appear clustered in dense spikes from terminal, leafy-based panicles. The perianth is 3-5 cleft with a stamen inserted at the base of each lobe. The 2-celled anther produces abundant pollen. The fernale flowers, also in spikes an densely leafy-bracted panicles, lack perianths. Each flower has 2 stigmas and has 2 connivent bractlets subtending its base. The fruit are utricles enclosed in 4winged bracts. Produced in great quantities almost every year, they follow flower production. The fruit are 4-15 nun (0. 16 - 0.6 inch)

long. They vary consider-* ably in size and shape in different regions. The sessile or Car short-peduncled bracts are little, compressed united to their summit. They develop the characteristic two pairs of wings. To propagate, gather the fruit when ripe. The abundant seeds needs no cleaning. The seeds average 22,500 seeds per pound with about 85% purity. Germination averages 30-60 percent. The seeds may be broadcast locally at a rate of 14-16 pounds per acre to reseed broad, sandy loam range areas or planted in containers for fewer plants as soon as ripe. Viability lasts several years if stored in a dry place.



Seeds can be stored and planted the next Spring or wet period. Cover with about 3 mm of soil. Seedlings tolerate full sunshine, but are susceptible to dropping off during their first fortnight.

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

Correction: The last issue of the *Newsletter* stated that David Bleakley's Key to the Penstemons of New Mexico was available in most libraries. This is not correct but it is available from the Range Science Herbarium, Knox Hall, NMSU 88003.

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. Original 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. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. A wide selection of books is available at discount. The society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld. Contact our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative for more information. Call chapter contacts for local information.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost \$50 per year.

Membership Fees

Dues are \$12.00 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, NPSNM, POB 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5917

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor. See address below or email to tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu

Deadline for the next newsletter is December 1.

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Lotebush: Ziziphus obtusifolia

by Joe Ideker

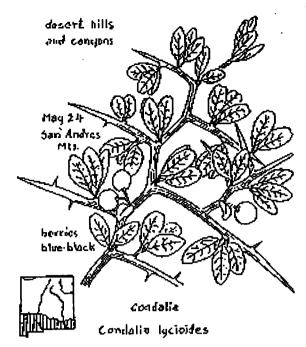
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Lotebush is a stiff, much-branched shrub with straight, thorn-tipped, grayish-green branchlets. The grooved twigs are diagnostic with the exception of old plants that lack new growth. Usually a 0.5 - 2.5m (1.5 to 8.2 ft) tall shrub, Lotebush occasionally occurs as a single trunked tree form. Ziziphus obtusifolia belongs to the Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family). The simple, alternate or fascicled, green leaves drop during drought, but quickly reappear after rainfall. The elliptic to deltoid, ovate, or narrowly oblong blades vary in size and shape with moisture availability, from 1-5 cm (0.4-2 in) long by 0.4-5 cm (0.2-2 in) wide with obtuse or acute tips, entire to coarsely toothed margins, and narrowed bases. The petioles vary from 0.25 to 0.33 times the blade length. The zigzag, grayish-green, grooved, glaucous twigs end in stout, straight, or nearly straight spines to 7.5 cm (3 in) long. The smooth bark varies from light-gray to dark-gray.

Lotebush's inconspicuous, greenish flowers occur in axillary clusters on 2-nun (0.08 in) long pedicles. The five hooded and clawed petals about equal the sepals. The five stamens and two-cleft style complete the perfect flowers. Greatly rainfall-dependent, most flowers appear after rain in summer. The globose, black, fleshy drupes, 7-10 nun (0.3-0.4 in) in diameter, are not tasty. The single stone contains two seeds. Lotebush occurs through much of Texas with the exception of East Texas, the highest plains, southwestern Oklahoma, southern New Mexico, and southeastern Arizona. It grows in altitudes from 1750m (5,500 ft) in the Chisos Mountains to nearly sea level near the mouth of the Rio Grande. In Mexico, Lotebush grows from Chihuahua to Tamaulipas and south into San Luis Potosi and northern Veracruz', Its varied habitats include thickets, chaparrals, clay loams, and ebony woodlands, growing in various soils and both in shade and full sunshine. Ziziphus stems from "zizauf," an Arabic name for Z.Lotus which is related to the Jujube of this genus. The species name, obtusifolia, refers to the obtuse apex of the leaf. The local Spanish names are Clepen and Clepene. White-tailed Deer browse on the leaves. The mealy drupes are edible, but not tasty. They are eaten by gray fox, coyote, raccoon, Plain Chachalaca, Phainopepla, and various other birds and mammals. The roots serve as a soap substitute and provide a treatment for wounds aiid sores of domestic animals. The thoms of taller individual plants offer protective cover for nests. Lotebush remains attractive even leafless with its striated, green twigs. Its stout defense suggests utility in preventing unwanted traffic such as discouraging shortcutting. It serves as a good specimen plant which attracts birds when in fruit.

Christmas Gift Idea?

Need a gift idea for that someone who seems to have everything? How about a memberhip to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

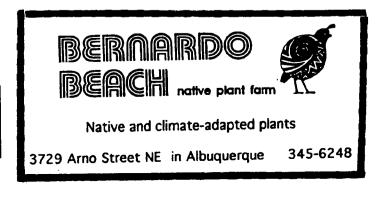


CHAPTER REPORTS

Albuquerque — Jean Heffin

September 3: The August plant sale raised approximately \$1700 and a big thanks to the growers and volunteers who helped make it a success. The chapter voted to donate \$1250 to support the Junior Division of the Botany Category of the Northwest Regional Science Fair. Santa Fe landscaper Nancy Daniels' talk gave a real impetus to planning a garden to attract insects using her own and Steve Carey's slides. One of Nancy's key thoughts was that every window should be a picture where you can watch the wildlife in your garden.

October 1: Greg Magee of Naturescapes Nursery in Las Cruces and member of the State Board of the New Mexico Native Plant Society presented the excellent new booklet, "Chihuahuan Gardens". Under the sponsorship of the NPS he and newsletter editor Tim McKimmie produced the bookletthat has excellent photographs contributed by NPS members and plant descriptions and growing instructions. He talked about problems of landscaping in the Chihuahuan Desert and how landscaping with native plants helped solve problems of gardens in that arid climate. The NPS hopes to produce such booklets for various areas of the state in the future.





CALENDAR



Nov. 7-8 Boyse Thompson Arboretum. 8 am. WNMU Fine Arts Bldg. S. lot. 388-4789

Nov. 20 "Endangered Plant Species in NM" by Bob Sivinski. 7 pm Harlan Hall, WNMU

Dec. 12 Pot Luck at Becky Smith's

DTFBO

Nov. 7 Planning meeting for 1999. Gordon's home. Noon.

LAS CRUCES

Nov. 4 Annual Potluck. 6:30 pm SW Environmental Center. 1494 S. Solano

Dec. 2 Annual Planning Meeting. 7:30. SW Environmental Ctr.

ALBÉGGÉROTE

Nov. 5 "Propagating Native Plants" by Diane McMillen. 7:30 pm.
Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas.

Dec. 10 Potluck. 6:30 Albuquerque Garden Center.

CHAPTER REPORTS



Otero - Jean Dodd

8-17-98

Our annual trip to WSMR with range botanist Dave Lee Anderson took place 8 August 1998. The landscape was mostly bleak as we started but until we had climbed higher, One long strung out group of yucca elata decorated a hillside. The SanAndroas mountains were in the distance, salt cedar was in the arroyos, and hog potato, too Hoffmanseggia densiflora-considered a weed. Then we came todensetrocky desert with bicolored mustard, desert willow, ocotillo, lots of prickly pears, mesquite, creosote in bloom, Apache plume in bloom, and beautiful Menodora scabra-twin pod or rough menodora with bright yellow flowers. Dave said as we go into the fall season the flowers may develop red streaks on the petals, We stopped at a place used by the Indians many years ago to roast agave hearts in the pit he pointed out to us. The Mescaleros still do this at the Living Desert. If you are going through the Reservation just before Ruidoso, you might stop at their museum where they have samples of the roasted agave hearts. The pit we saw was used around 1659-give or take 50 years. In this same area wereN.M. hedgehogs which have scarlet flowers in April-Echinocereus coccineus Engelm. var arizonicus; Turk's Head cactus, Coryphantha vivipara; Engelrnan's prickly pear. One plant was a night blooming cereus. It was a notch below endangered species of concern. The plant was dried up and black. Dave carefully held it up so we could all see it and then just as carefully put it back where it was. The cereus has a very large bulb 6-811 down and is a plant that needs a nurse plant. A nurse plant shelters another plant nearby to help it get started. As we continued on a very bad, rocky road we became very conscious of being in a canyon, The crossrock daisy seemed to

grow straight out of the rock, There are two kinds and they are endemic to this mountain range, Off to the right were three talc mines. on this trip we were fortunate to have two geologists who explained the rock formations at several stops, To read about the movement of the earth over time is awesome, but to have people point out to you where that rocky ridge used to be a very long time ago helps to make it seem more real. The geology information was a great addition to the trip. Saw a clump of Hibiscus denudatus in full bloom with their pale lavendar cup shaped blossoms with a red center, Lots of Viguiera stenoloba covered with yellow daisies, Trailing windmills (4 o'clock) were plentiful with their pink blossoms on trailing stems. Clammyweed blooming in clumps, Mimosa biuncifera (wait-a-bit), whitethorn acacia with fragrant yellow balls. The whitethorn acacia is one of our best landscaping plants. At lunchtime we sat in the shade (it was a hot day, It was a hot day, Afterwards we admired nearby petroglyphs in the same area, In the midst of a bush we found a snapdragon vine-Maurandya antirrhinifolia, evening primroses not in bloomipurpla mustard-Schoenocrambe linearifolia. Other plants there were beargrass allthorn, Acacia neovericosa, vine mesquite (grass) yellow wallflower and yellow flax. The next stop was at the bottom of the hill topped by Victorio Ridge which is 5,100, and was used for a lookout in their battle with the Buffalo soldiers. The Apaches were in the area several years. Further on we heard a recounting of the search for a stash of gold bars. Supposedly Doc Noss found a stash of gold bars one day when he took shelter from the weather in the mountains. sometimes it is interesting to know where people are from on a field trip. This time it was from Alamogordo, Tularosa, LaLuzfthe nearby canyons, Irongate-between Cloudcroft and Mayhill@rElPaso,LasCruces,Peralta,Twin Forks,White Sands Monument, Mayhill, Cloudcroft, and Tucson,

On August 22, John Stockert lead a mostly downhill, 4.8-mile hike along the proposed Benson Ridge/Bluff Springs Trail in the Sacramento District of Lincoln National Forest. The route consists

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Otero Report cont'd

mostly of old timber roads that are partially grass-covered and have little blocking shrubbery. Ten individuals participated and enjoyed seeing 25 species of wildflowers and the fresh greenery so typical of high southwestern mountain areas during this time of the year. A special treat was passing through a superb. high mountain valley with no drainage outlet except through its porous soil. Elevations ranged feet and provided ideal temperatures amid Participants were given updated maps and shown from 9,440 to 8,050 feet and provided ideal temperatures amid a largely stinny day. Participants were given updated maps and shown other trailheads for additional hiking possibilities they can take on their own. Transportation was arranged so as to have vehicles available at the lower/far end of the hike.

Sept. 18 at noon we met at Animas-it certainly has grown. We were a somewhat unusual group. Five people had to drop out unexpectedly, mostly for severe medical problems. This included the people responsible for the trip. so we just turned a lot of things over to Cap Naegle from Ruidoso who deserves a medal for all he does for our group-including hauling people around in his wonderful Suburban, WE were given a list of ranches to see from the Malpais group but only one could see us. We looked at one ranch on our own Friday afternoon after checking in at Portal and enjoying one of their good meals. Portal is one of our favorite places. Everyone is friendly and wants to share their latest discovery-usually birds. After lunch we went to a ranch pasture in what was once a dry lake bed. The last time we were in the Peloncillos with Paul Gordon the Conservancy owned a vast amount of land, Tt has been sold to an Association but the Conservancy still helps, Their signs were on all of the fences, At the Lake Ranch we were shown where to go following some tracks which were often barely discernables The herd of cattle there didn't pay much attention to us. This land is rolling hills and lots of very flat land of mostly short grasses, From time to time we would see 'very old trees, Looked like a stream bed was there, Very few people. Cap showed us blue grama, side oats grama, milkweed, Sacaton grass, wolf tail grass, sprangle top grass and Arizona cotton top, Much of the land was covered with short grasses mixed with a short yellow composite. We drove to the border where there was a tall, white border marker. On the return trip much of the land looked like this area-very different from what we have seen in other years or on the rest of the trip, Saturday morning the biroers took a walk to see birds, At breakfast a lady asked if we bad been to Pustlers Park and told what she had seen. NOw it is on our liat of places to go. but not in the winter, There are sharp curves and narrow places. At Rustler Park we met a man with a SW Research Station T-shirt, 14e showed us a place to go and watch birds bathe-this at the top of a long gentle 'hill full of all kinds of wildflowers.-orange toadstools, nodding senecio, jacob's ladder, penstemon-red,, brickellia, silene lanciniata, pagoda plant(mint) paintbrusb, orange globe mallow, cosmos, bright pink verbena, geraniums, ch.ickory, yarrow, and lots of ferns, Buckwheat was from still being white to having turned to red. On the way up were silver leaf oak, mullein, bedstraw, banana yucca, later ocean spray, box elder, Mt Mahogany manzanita, and sycamore, Starting possibly in the area of the Research Station we saw little white tailed Cous deer and then saw them all along the road for quite a stretch, Back to Portal for lunch and checking out, We started out for the McDonald Ranch little knowing just how bad

the road is and so long! Were sorry not to have a recorder for the talk we heard. It was awesome especially if you have tried to change outmoded ways. His Malpais ranchers along the Border has been written up in Smithsonian, the Nature Conservancy. There will be a separate article about the Malpais Group, what they are trying to do and how. They have help from the Nature Conservancy and the U, of Arizona.

On Sept, 12 Otero bad their annual edible native potluck at the home of Jack and Linda Green, who are wonderful hosts, Location is in the mountains between Cloudcroft and Mayhill. People seem to get more inventive every year. There is always talk of the danger of cooking wild mostly from thorns on cactus and berry bushes. The berries were lucious in several dishes and a beautiful color. People had had been told that they could bring something else if they couldn't think of a native dish. Linda is hoping for a lot more people next year. Some of the dishes brought were mixed pieces of various melons, sourdough bread,, chilie rellano casserole, creamed corn, sucatash, bean casserole, salad with strips of cactus, artichoke hearts sliced water chestnuts, sprouts, and assorted pieces of different kinds of lettuce, Jack cooked several hams, Flour tortillas stuffed with purslane were outstanding. They were cut into about 211 little rolls, Other desserts were lemon delight, pumpkin pie, ice cream, and whipped cream for toppings. This is a time for relaxing, getting acquainted with different generations, or looking at birds and mountain wildflower. We are becoming a native plant and bird group.

4 Oct. 1998 Otero met with member John Mangimeli who works at the White Sands Monument and is very good at explaining what happens to the sands and the plants when the sands move. Winds make the ripple patterns you see, Over time movement of the sands can result in the pedestals you see with plants growing out of the top. He pointed out a yucca being buried and growing taller and taller so the leaves would be in the clear, at least for a time. They have a new plant list indicating where to find the plants in Ivey's book. Jennifer Atchley who works for the World Wildlife Fund, showed a film on "Biodiversity Conservation in the Chihuahuan Desert. This is perhaps the richest desert in the world in terms diversity of its plants and animals. The Chihuahuan Desert has more species of birds. mammals. butterflies, and reptiles than any other ecoregion in the U.S. and Canada. The study is trying to determine the threats to the region and will then work on goals to protect the area,



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I move into the presidency of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico it gives me great pleasure to report to the membership that the organization is in excellent condition. The future looks very bright because Mary Whitmore, past-president, and the Board of Directors, with considerable assistance from many members in the local chapters, have made it so. We have more members than we have ever had in the 23 year history of the organization. Our budget is in excellent condition, which means we are in a position to develop new programs that would never have been possible without the active participation of our members and other friends. At the same time I move into my new role as president with some trepidation.

At the time I was graduating from college with a new degree in the biological and physical sciences and a minor in physical education there was one thing the professors and coaches warned us against doing in our first jobs. They discouraged us from following a winner. And what am I doing? I am following a winner!

Mary Whitmore has done a superb job of leading this organization over the past two years. During this period it was always obvious to me that Mary enjoyed what she was doing and she wanted the Board to become a more effective leadership body. There was never any doubt in my mind that she believed in the objectives of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and she wanted us to achieve our objectives. Her enthusiasm caused me to want to contribute more time and energy to the conservation of the native flora of New Mexico. I take this opportunity to thank Mary for her devotion to the organization and to warn her that I plan to continue to call on her for guidance and leadership in the months ahead.

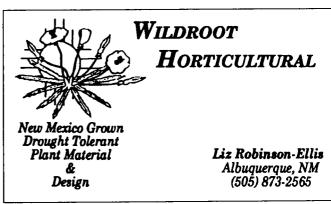
A major portion of my adult life has been devoted to the study of plants. Botany has been and continues to be both my vocation and my avocation. By the time I had completed my sophmore year in college it was obvious to me that the early evolution of plants, along with the fungi, bacteria and some protozoans, made it possible for humankind and other animal species to evolve and survive on planet earth. As one reads the purpose of the NPS of NM it is easy to identify the reasons why I want to contribute to this organization now and in the future.

I encourage you to please read once again our objectives and to ask yourself how you might best contribute.

- 1. Promote the conservation of the native flora of New Mexico.
- 2. Promote the conservation of the ecosystems in which these native plants occur.
- 3. Encourage the use of native plants in landscaping and water conservation.
- 4. Support the Endangered Species Act and other laws that protect the endangered and threatened species in New Mexico and over our small planet.
- 5. Develop programs and materials that will educate and inform the total society of the scientific, social and esthetic value of native plants to the future of all life on planet earth.
- 6. Support research activities in our institutions of higher education and regional botanical gardens and arboreta.
- 7. Continue to develop and support the regional chapters throughout the state and to encourage the creation of new chapters. 8. Support and work with other agencies that have objectives similar to those of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

About the time I started to see the handwriting on the wall, that I would be the next president of this organization, the editor of the Newsletter, Tim McKimmie, ask me to read the back issues of the Newsletter and to report to him the names of articles that he might wish to reprint in future issues. For me that became an extremely important learning experience. The tremendous power and potential energy within the membership of this organization, that had its origin only 23 years ago, became obvious. I recognized that if we are not reaching our objectives to the level we would like, it is not the fault of the membership, but the inability of the Board to involve the membership in real and meaningful ways. A major role of the Board and the regional chapters is to bring this potential to life and make it a reality.

It seems to me we can best reach those objectives if we get a larger portion of our membership involved in that part of our total program that most concerns them as individuals. One path we might follow is to strengthen our committee structure and invite those with special interests to join one of several committees. During my four years on the Board this has been our weakest link. We tend to wait with baited breath for solid proposals to come forward, but the lack of a process for developing those suggestions is not in place. Perhaps several examples of possible working committees would be helpful.



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It seems to me we need a strong communications and publications committee; a group of people who would like to participate in strengthening our good Newsletter and in making it better, take a leadership role in developing another excellent publication like our recently published *Chihuahuan Desert Gardens*, and who could come forward with a plan for the development of a NPS of NM website.

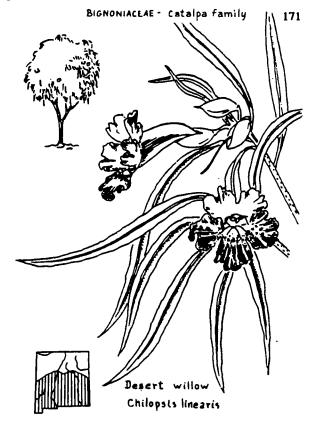
Reading the history of the organization it was obvious we once had a rather large group of members who wrote important articles and reviewed books for the Newsletter on landscaping with native plants, xeriscaping in our desert environment and describing new and inventive methods for conserving our precious water supply. That group of folks needs to reorganize into a structure that can make their voices heard throughout New Mexico.

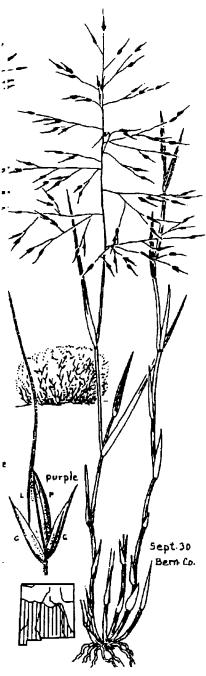
Our conservation committee has slipped from view over the four years that I have been on the Board. In fact we do not have a chair for this important committee at this time. Here we need a group of people with fire in their bellies, who can inform our membership and the entire population of New Mexico on conservation legislation and where and how the native flora is being protected and threatened. Our Newsletter has a key role to play in this area and a new website could do wonders in defining the role our membership might play in the protection of our environment.

It seems to me we need equally strong committees in basic research and education that could attract research scholars, serious students of the flora and teachers to come together and publish in our Newsletter, produce regional floras, develop a field botany curriculum for teachers, provide workshops for teachers and develop a state 2x2 slide program that can produce sets of slides for teachers and interested laypersons. All of these activities would help us better conserve the flora of New Mexico.

Certainly opportunities abound and although we have come a long way, we still have a long road to travel if we are going to provide the kind of protection the flora and fauna will require as the population of New Mexico doubles in the next 35 to 50 years. I encourage you to participate in your local chapter because that is the foundation of this organization. Then find your role at the state level. Become a member of one of the several committees, attend a state board meeting and an annual convention. Also, reach out to your friends and neighbors and let them know of the purpose and long term plans of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. I can promise you that you will gain knew knowledge and skills concerning the flora of New Mexico. But of equal importance, you will grow spiritually and intellectually, make new friends and have a good time. Nothing would please me more than to hear from those of you who have an interest in more active participation in this organization.

Jack L. Carter





Hoegrass, bush muhly Muhlenbergia porteri



STATE BOARD WELCOMES TAOS CHAPTER

The Board of Directors is pleased to report to the membership that we now have a new chapter. At the 12 September meeting of the State Board, president, Sandra Ross, and vice president, Andy Wasowski, of the Taos Chapter, presented the chapter bylaws and requested that this new organization be admitted to membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Following a short discussion of the several activities in which the chapter is involved and the recognition of the congruence between the bylaws of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and those of the Taos Chapter the vote was unanimous to admit our friends from Taos to full membership. It is a pleasure to welcome this new chapter as we join in our efforts to conserve the native flora of New Mexico. The Taos Chapter becomes the seventh chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

PENSTEMONS: The Beautiful Beardtongues of New Mexico

by Jean Heslin

74 full color photographs by Bill Heflin - 36 detailed drawings by Robert DeWitt Ivey 76 pages of descriptions, photos and information on New Mexico's wild penstemons For layman and professionals *Hardcover *Includes chapter on penstemons in the garden Send \$20 plus \$4.50 NM tax and shipping to Jack Rabbit Press, 2531 Griegos Pl. NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107-2873. Quantity discounts available, call 505-343-9405.

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

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico 1105 Circle Drive Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

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