

# Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## *NEWSLETTER*

October, November, December 2006 Volume XXXI Number 4

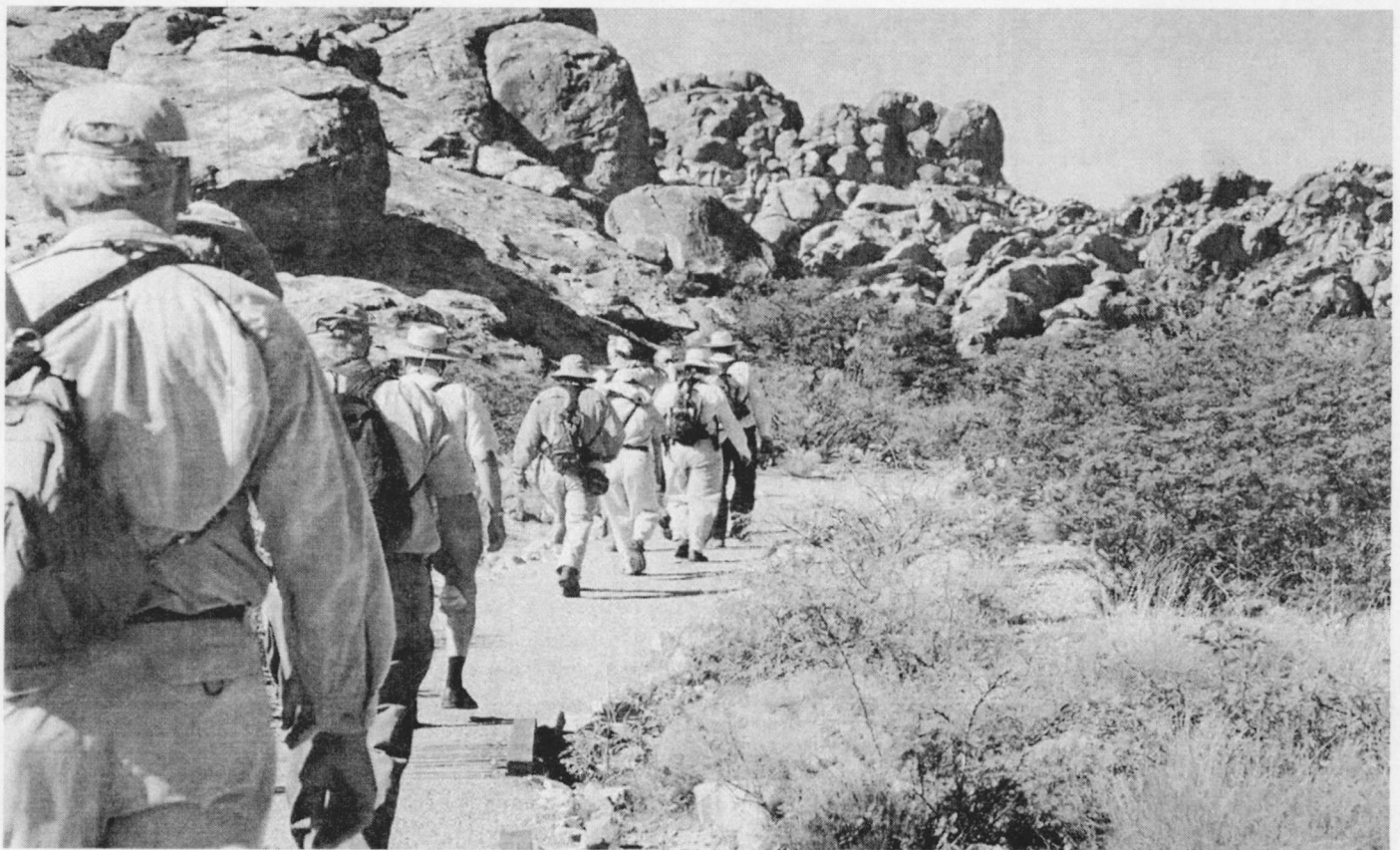


Photo by Joe Cancellare

Field trip participants head into the heart of Hueco Tanks State Park on a sunny August morning near El Paso. One of many fascinating field trips at the 2006 statewide NPSNM meeting, this hike offered interesting plants, unique seyenite outcrops, and well-filled rain-fed pools.

More pictures and story, pages 8-10, 16

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## From the President

Chick Keller

After the first burst of excitement and energy at the state meeting, I have come back down to the hard truth that helping to make this Society continue and prosper is going to be a lot of work. In addition to the normal care and feeding details (thank heavens I have lots of splendid and experienced help with these), I feel the need to do more. Past president Wynn Anderson has left us with a strong, vital organization, and I thank him for his hard work these past years (and I'll keep bugging him for the odd piece of advice whenever I get stuck).

And so I'm asking myself who we are and why we are. We seem to be an amalgamation of gardeners, taxonomists, educators, and conservationists, and the tie that binds us is our

common joy in knowing and experiencing our native plants. What we write about ourselves pretty much reflects this. Here is what it says at the home page of our website:

"The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of the native flora of New Mexico. The purpose of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is to promote the conservation of our native flora, plant habitats and encourage the appropriate use of native plants in New Mexico. We support research and educational activities in New Mexico schools and universities. The NPSNM encourages the use of suitable native plants in landscaping as a

*(Continued on page 7)*

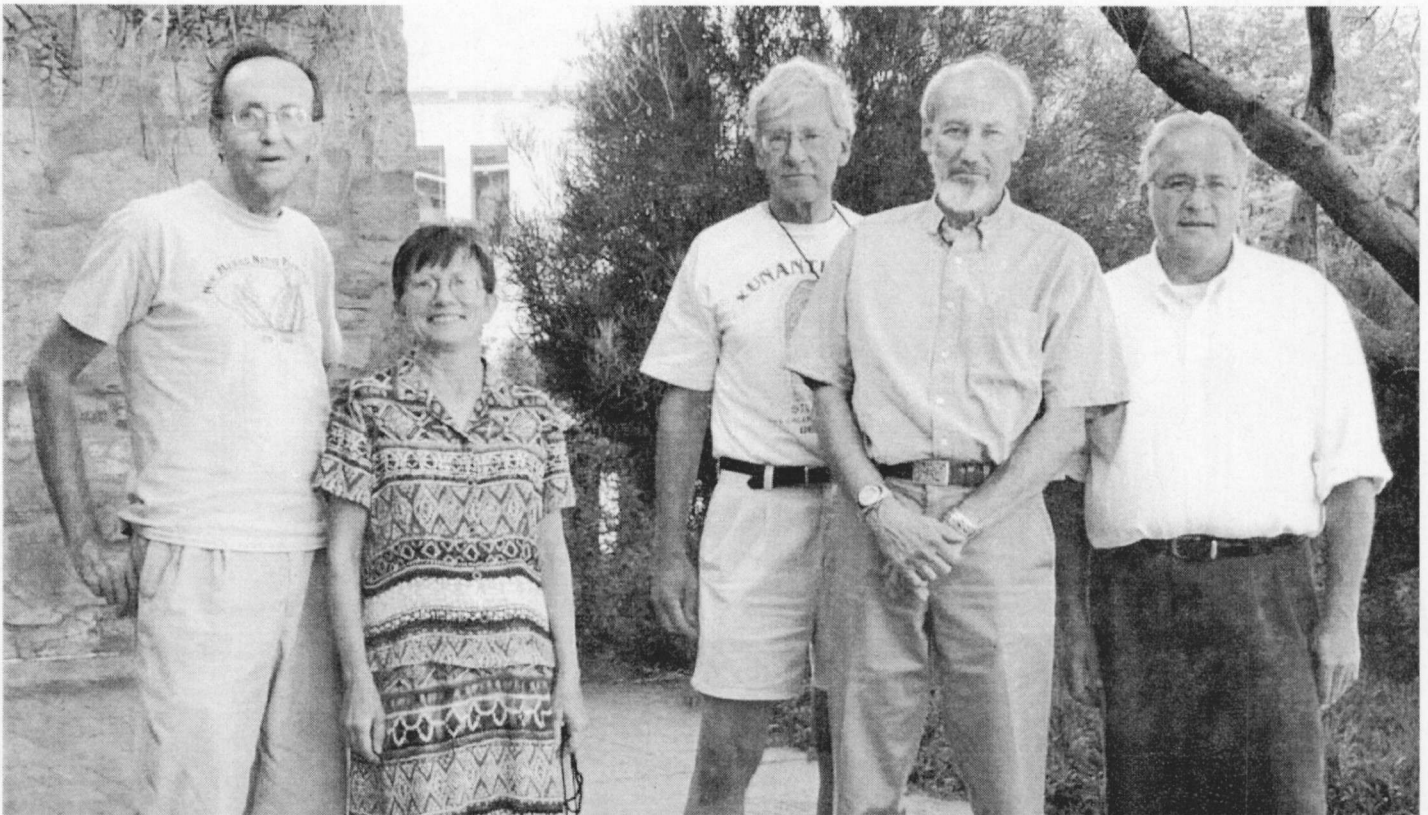


Photo by Philip Melnick

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Board of Directors 2006-08

Membership Secretary John Freyeremuth, Recording Secretary Carolyn Gressitt, Treasurer Stephen Robertson, President Chick Keller, and Vice President Tom Antonio (left to right).

**The 2007 NPSNM Statewide Meeting :**  
**Farmington, NM,**  
**on the spectacular Colorado Plateau!**  
**Dates to be announced.**

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization, and is free to members. The NPSNM 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 attributed to the author and to this Newsletter. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM.

Manuscripts and artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor, Renée West at:

*keywestern@hotmail.com* OR:

*1105 Ocotillo Canyon Dr., Carlsbad NM 88220*

**Next Deadline is Dec. 1, 2006**

Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our 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 dealing with plants, landscaping, and other environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

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U.S. Highway 62/180 widening:

## Plant Salvage Swings into High Gear

Angela Flanders and Jim Nellessen,  
contributors

The plant salvage along U.S. Hwy. 62/180 south of Carlsbad has begun. And it will continue to the end of 2006.

The dates and rules for the salvage project were announced at the August NPSNM Board of Directors meeting and before the month was out, two salvage field trips had already taken place with at least one more planned. Jim Nellessen, NPSNM Conservation Chair and author of the grant we received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, reported he already started salvaging plants, especially cacti, for his Albuquerque chapter in August. He has challenged other chapters to try to keep up with him.

"The challenge is on!" said Nellessen.

But the Gila Chapter was already on the road, meeting the challenge and providing photographic proof. Otero Chapter has a field trip set for October 14-15 (see Chapter Activities).

Elroy Limmer organized seven Gila members (those in the photo plus Angela Flanders) for two days of rescuing cacti and other plants along the highway. They used Nellessen's list of plants and the areas where they are concentrated.

Temperatures reaching 96 degrees Fahrenheit, high humidity, and a large concentration of mosquitoes did not deter these hardy souls who harvested about 200 plants and 75 cuttings. Among them were *Agave lechuguilla*, a plant that has a flower stalk of purple and orange blossoms that is quite different from the typical agave flower stalk; *Mammillaria heyderi*, a traditional medicinal plant used by the Tarahumara; *Yucca torreyi*; and *Epithelantha micromeris*, a kind of button cactus. Plants were sorted and potted the next day. Later, cactus experts Dr. Dale Zimmerman and Marian Zimmerman assisted with plant identification. Joan Limmer made a count of the plants rescued and will send it to the state organization, as Nellessen has requested.

"Then," said Angela Flanders, "we may do it all over again! What fun!"

Plants that survive their transplanting will be



Photo by Angela Flanders

Plant rescuers from the Gila Chapter prepare to head home with a truck full of cacti and plants from the salvage area south of Carlsbad. Left to right are Ken Kleker, Spike Flanders, Joan Limmer, Debbie Kleker, Deming Gustafson, and Elroy Limmer.

available for purchase at Gila Chapter's annual native plant sale next Earth Day in Silver City.

Nellessen himself rescued close to 40 cactus plants in an hour with the help of an extra person. He reported they are mostly *Echinocereus pectinatus (dasyacanthus)* and *Echinocactus horizionthalonius*, but he also found one *Echinocactus texensis*.

This salvage is an NPSNM statewide effort, designed to benefit the chapters by allowing them to sell free plants. The \$10,000 grant from NFWF is designed to cover many expenses, and carries requirements that we report travel expenses and volunteer hours (see the January and April issues of this newsletter for more details).

All chapters are welcome to participate and either sell or donate the plants. For information on

(Continued on page 5)

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**P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**

(Continued from page 4)

## Plant Salvage in High Gear

rules and restrictions, contact your local chapter or Nellessen. At the board meeting, each chapter received a copy of the required BLM and NMDOT permits. Every person must have copies of both when out along the highway collecting plants, so take plenty of copies.

"I want to encourage each chapter (or groups of chapters) to go out on their own, when they have time," said Nellessen. "I do not want to set particular dates and constrict people's time. There are too many of us to be particular on when we go. But our overall time period to collect plants runs from right now until Dec 31, 2006."

In order to sell the plants, another permit is needed, from the NM Agriculture Department. Chapters should contact Bob Sivinski for information. There is no fee for this permit since NPSNM is a non-profit.

### El Paso Chapter

## Another Plant Salvage Project

Approximately 2,500 plants—mostly cacti—were rescued from the proposed Border Patrol development at Hondo Pass in the Castner Range in late August and early September. The plants were collected by members of the El Paso Chapter of NPSNM, with help from the El Paso Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, El Paso Cactus and Rock Club members, and the public.

Peter Beste, plant salvage coordinator for El Paso, organized the salvage after efforts to deter the Border Patrol development failed. The chapter demonstrated its commitment to conservation by rescuing plants at the site.

During the recent Labor Day rainstorm, Beste reported, "We are almost done with the project. The inclement weather is hampering our efforts somewhat. After we are done at Castner Range we will participate in the Carlsbad project."

## The Members Speak

### Otero's Lucille Wilson Turns 90

Lucille Nichols Wilson, a life member of the NPSNM, has been an active member of the Otero Chapter since 1980. Many of you will remember Lucille as one of the "Cooking Wild Ladies" as well as a workshop instructor in basket making at the 2004 statewide annual meeting. We in Otero know her as an energetic native plant grower who works diligently every year at the annual native plant sale fundraiser, as well as for her contributions to the NPSNM booth at the Otero County Fair.

She was named one of the "Women of the Year 2004" by the *Alamogordo Daily News*, received the Pioneer Award from the NM Commission on the Status of Women in 2001, and is a life member of the El Paso Bowling Association.

Lucille was born in La Luz Canyon, La Luz, NM, on August 29, 1916, and returned to La Luz to retire with her husband Toad in 1965.

Chris Baker

---

### Conserve Our National Parks

Recently there was an article indicating that the National Park Service will retain its historic mandate of resource protection and preservation as its first priority. It was prompted by an earlier attempt to change the Service's management guidelines, placing recreation and utilization as top priorities. The new proposed guidelines were opposed by the Retired National Park Employees Association and many others. What a welcome decision this is, if we can count on the policy makers to follow this mandate in practice and not just in words.

But, also recently, New Mexico Congressman Stevan Pearce sent a letter indicating his displeasure with the costs of some projects undertaken by the National Park Service. (Our Congressman Pearce is Chairman of the House

Subcommittee on National Parks.) Congressman Pearce's solution to costs, and to the underfunding of the Service in general, is to turn over more and more park responsibilities to the private sector.

I first became aware of this idea in regard to one national park, a historic battlefield in the East. A large number of trees have grown up in the park, making it more difficult to interpret the historic scene. The Service is in the process of thinning the trees, but with its limited resources the project will be lengthy to complete. Congressman Pearce proposed putting the project out for bid to timber interests and further, to assign the proceeds of the sale to that park.

This plan seems to be a covert attempt to privatize the national parks, as it would encourage parks to sell natural resources in order to gain needed funds. In short order, it would destroy what plenty of smart people have officially recognized as irreplaceable wonders that should be saved for future generations.

It is time for our political leaders to recognize our responsibilities to protect our national parks. Their preservation is an obligation we can well afford, but rather we are trying to do so "on the cheap." Privatization and underfunding are not responsible answers.

Tom Wootten

---



Photo by Joe Cancellare

Ferns in Hueco Tanks State Park near El Paso.

(Continued from page 2)

## From the President

water conservation measure, for the improvement of wildlife habitat and because native plants are integral to the environment of the Southwest.”

Bringing together in one organization these four types of people is the real strength of our Society, but we need to make sure there is some underlying unity in it all, else our individual efforts do not become mutually supporting. What is the common ground of the gardeners and the plant identifiers? Are many of us really suited to the rigors of conservation or the creativity of teaching? The answer is clear: Probably not, but together we complement one another, and we need to be aware of this. Otherwise our effectiveness is dulled.

And so this is perhaps a good time to sit down and take stock of what's working, what needs some encouragement and help, and perhaps more importantly, where we should be going. So far I think we have done some remarkable things. Here are a few:

\*NPSNM has a growing reputation in the state for doing sensible conservation, for working with municipalities and state government to preserve floristically special areas, and for educating the public about the value of our natural heritage.

\*We have a remarkable record with our grant program for funding all sorts of research and educational initiatives by individuals and communities, chapters, etc. (I think we ought to put out a small publication telling ourselves and others what we're collectively doing through this program.)

\*Chapters and State working together have published three outstanding, informative and very attractive books on native plants that grow well and enhance home gardens. These are reaching thousands of people.

\*Plant sales, books sales, hikes, workshops, lectures – all of these have greatly increased knowledge and appreciation of our native plants.

But there are some problems that we collectively need to consider:

\*Society membership is essentially pinned at around 750 over the past few years. It seems our goal of 1,000 members is unattainable. But what this figure doesn't tell is that we get about a hundred new members each year. Why doesn't

membership then grow? It's because, amazingly, we lose some 50% of all first-year members, and if you include second-year, that increases to two thirds! This tells us that we've got some work to do to make new members feel welcome and, more importantly, needed. We need to welcome new members, but also give them something to do. Too often, to newcomers the Society looks like a closed shop of experts and long-time members. Thus, they don't feel that they fit in and we lose them. Most of our goals for the future require added membership. Let's talk about this and see what ideas people have for retaining our new members.

\*We have lost two chapters this year and several others are struggling. Is this a special case of our membership problem, or is it our inability to attract and train people to put in their stint at running the chapters? Let's talk about this from our own experience. What works, what doesn't?

\*A final problem I keep hearing is that chapters don't think State returns enough benefit, help, etc., for the dues it takes. I've already heard some interesting suggestions of what State could do for the chapters. I'd like to hear more. It does seem State and the chapters need to be better acquainted with each other's goals and problems.

In all this, I keep having the nagging feeling that perhaps the Society has found its balance and is working as well as it can, and any attempts to "improve" it might stifle the creative juices of its members whose contributions we assume will go on forever. And so I plan to spend the first part of my time listening to you all.

As a start, I'd like to visit each chapter some time this year, and am asking you to invite me whenever is most convenient. In addition, perhaps we can set up some email group to collectively share ideas. So much of our best work has been initiated and performed by dedicated individuals. We need to learn from their experience.

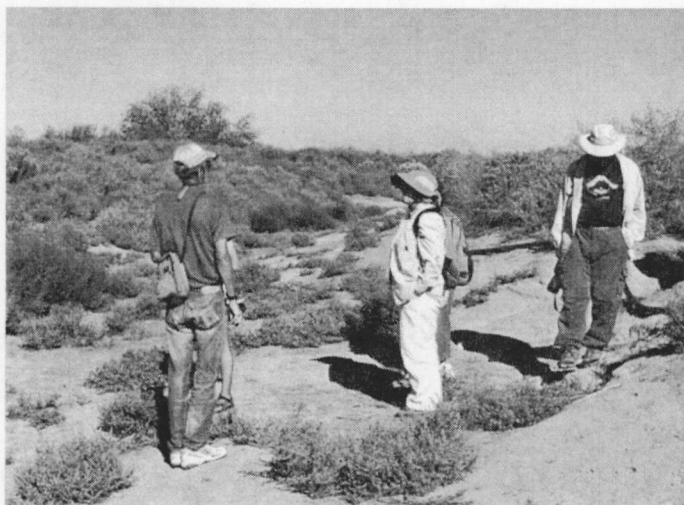
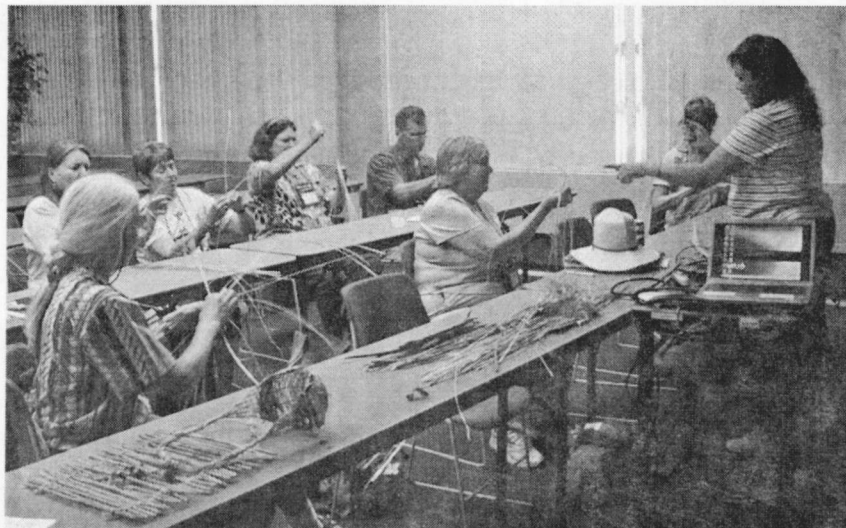
I, of course, have some ideas for things the Society might be doing, but that's a subject for my column in the next newsletter. For now, I look forward to working with all of you. Together we can continue to make our Society a real force for preserving our natural heritage and perhaps have a little fun while we're at it.

El Paso, Texas

2006 Statewide  
One Desert, Two

Right: Linda Borunda teaches a workshop on basketry techniques using native yucca fibers.

Photos this page by Renée West



Above: Standing in a former channel of the Río Grande within view of Mexico, John Sproul (left) explains the wetlands restoration project at Río Bosque Park to the NPSNM field trip.

Right: A volunteer-planted cottonwood thrives among the four-winged saltbush at Río Bosque Park.





# Annual Meeting Countries, Three States

Right: Surrounded by lush Chihuahuan Desert shrubs, ranger Wanda Olszewski (center) explains the ecology of Hueco Tanks State Park to the NPSNM field trip.



Photo by Joe Cancellare

Below: Long-time Río Bosque Park volunteer Sal Quintanilla (left) explains a pitfall trap to field trip participants.

Lower right: Book Sales Chair Lisa Johnston sells loads of books at every state meeting.



Photos by Renée West

August 10-13 in El Paso:

## State Meeting Showcases Chihuahuan Desert

Renée West

“I think ‘Hueco Tanks’ is Spanish slang for ‘voracious mosquitoes,’” quipped Petey Mesquitey during his banquet speech Saturday night. Earlier in the day, Mesquitey (aka, Peter Gierlach) had attended the field trip to Hueco Tanks State Park, where hikers ‘got acquainted’ with mosquitoes newly hatched from the pools after recent heavy rains.

Water is always a topic of interest in the desert, and it was certainly a major focus at the 2006 statewide annual meeting in El Paso in August. Just a week before the meeting was to begin, El Paso was inundated with floods – nine inches in a few hours was one neighborhood’s total. Many streets were barely cleared, with piles of rocks and plant debris still common. But capable event organizers devised detours for several events, with only one field trip being cancelled.

The opening presentations had water as a theme as well, focusing on how weather moves around the mountains and the continent (Dr. Robert Schmidt), the paleoecology (Dr. Cathryn Hoyt), and current plant communities (Dr. Rafael Corral). All these contribute to making our desert what it is, largely controlling the tremendous diversity and distribution of species.

Several field trips visited areas where the presence of water makes magic. Besides the

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*The problem with roofs is, when it's not raining, you don't know you need to fix them. And when it's raining, you can't.*

—Chick Keller, in *El Paso*

---

mosquitoes, at Hueco Tanks hikers got to see an interesting array of plants in that unique locale. Another field trip visited a pair of reclaimed wetlands at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Río Bosque Park. For the past decade, volunteer labor has helped create habitat for a huge diversity of wildlife and native plants. Tiny Couch’s spadefoot toads – just out after last week’s rains – were common in muddy depressions. Another trip visited Mount Cristo Rey at the juncture of two

nations and three states, to see interesting plants and dinosaur tracks in an ancient fossilized river bed. Other Saturday field trips visited a variety of residential gardens, the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, and El Paso Botanical Garden.

Three concurrent sessions Friday and Saturday afternoons offered speakers on Conservation and Education, Plant Uses, and Botany, with a Chihuahuan Desert emphasis. Book sales and a silent auction were available during the event.

During the Saturday night banquet event, outgoing president Wynn Anderson introduced the new Board of Directors, including president Chick Keller. Petey Mesquitey regaled us with poetic, musical, and reverent – oh, all right, often irreverent – reflections on the nature of the Chihuahuan Desert. A nurseryman, hiker, and radio personality in southern Arizona, Mesquitey peppered his talk with original songs celebrating desert plants and human characters, such as, “When the Wolfberry Blooms on A-Mountain” and “Vegan Cowboys.”

On Sunday, native plant adventurers set off for trips to Dripping Springs, Oro Grande, Kilbourne Hole, Bishop’s Cap, northern Chihuahuan dune fields of Mexico, and repeats of the Hueco Tanks and residential gardens trips.

Bad as it had been earlier for El Pasoans, the weather cooperated beautifully during the meeting weekend. But as we drove out of town, dark clouds were looming in our rear view mirrors...



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Petey Mesquitey examines *Colubrina stricta*, a rare Rhamnaceae shrub at Hueco Tanks State Park. Later, he addressed the meeting banquet.

Photo by Joe Cancellare

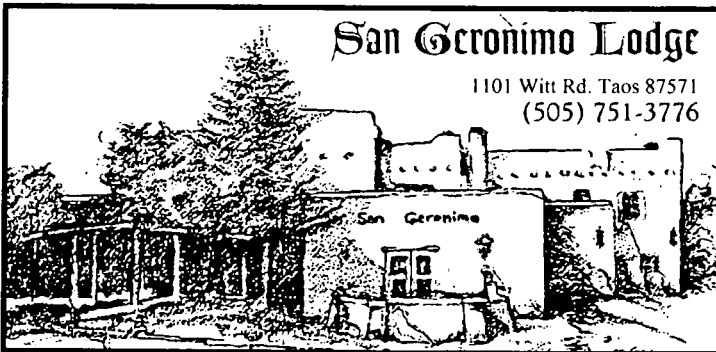


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**'Frankengrass' Spreads to Wild**

An experimental variety of genetically engineered bentgrass has escaped from its test plot in Oregon and has been found growing in the wild as far as three miles away, according to scientists from the U.S. EPA.

The biotech plant, designed for golf courses, has not been approved by the USDA, but has already been found dispersing among native grasses in six different locations. Scientists say they don't know how it will behave in the wild but admit it may have a strong advantage over native grasses, and could therefore irreversibly damage the ecosystem as it spreads.

According to Tom Stohlgren, an ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Institute of Invasive Species Science, the experimental bentgrass "can tend to outcompete other species... It doesn't need to sexually reproduce — it's like The Blob. It could potentially hit rare species or national parks."

Learn more: [http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article\\_1575.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_1575.cfm)

Reprinted from *Organic Bytes*, the electronic newsletter of the Organic Consumers Fund.

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**Quick Water Facts**

According to United Nations figures, 2.6 billion people consume unsafe and polluted water every day. The issue of access to fresh water is one of life or death. Here are some interesting facts about everyday water consumption:

- It takes 53 liters of water to produce one orange.
- 1 pint of milk: 250 liters
- 1 egg: 450 liters
- 1 kg of potatoes: 500 liters
- 1 loaf of bread: 550 liters
- 1 kg of butter: 18,000 liters
- 1 kg of wool: 200,000 liters
- 1 car: 150,000 liters

Source: *Financial Times*, [http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article\\_1593.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/2006/article_1593.cfm)



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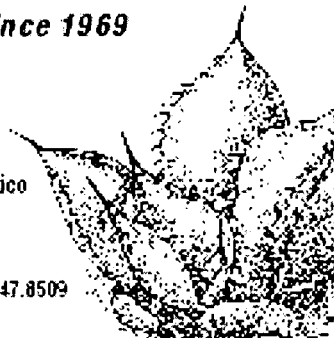
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# Chapter

## Activities & Events

### Albuquerque

Meetings are first Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Pinyon Room at The Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd (between Eubank & Wyoming Blvd.), in Los Altos Park.

October 5 talk—"Seeds of Survival" by Pam McBride, focuses on native plant use in antiquity, techniques used by Native Americans for cultivating plants in our arid environment, and slides of archaeological sites with outstanding preservation or unusual archaeobotanical assemblages. Pam is a paleoethnobotanist, interested in how plants were used in prehistory as well as historically and how that knowledge is preserved for future generations.

November 2 talk—"Midwestern Tall Grass Prairies" by Philip Melnick. Phil (and Paula Rebert) were members of the Native Plant Society when they lived in Illinois, where tall grass prairie habitats are a major interest of the group. He will show his photographs of prairie preserves and prairie restoration sites from Illinois to Oklahoma.

December 2 (Saturday)—Christmas Potluck, 11 am to 2 pm, place TBD. Challenge: Making Seasonal Decorations with Native Plants. Bring yours to show and tell.

### El Paso

All programs are second Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Centennial Museum, UTEP campus.

November 9 talk—"Landscaping for Dummies" by Cheryl Garing.

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are at 7 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall.

October 20 talk—"Effects of ATV use on the Landscape" by Chris Kassar, wildlife biologist, Center for Biological Diversity. This is an

important issue for conservationists and for ATV users. Even though there can be conflicts about how to use our natural resources, we have in common the desire to have these areas available for our use.

November 17 talk—"NM Endangered Plant Species and Land Conservation Programs" by Bob Sivinski, New Mexico Forestry Division. Sivinski will present information on all the state programs he manages, including the NM Rare and Endangered Plant Program, NM Natural Lands Protection Act, Forest Legacy Program, and the Land Conservation Incentives Act (tax credit program).

December 15—Annual Christmas Potluck, no program.

### Las Cruces

Talks are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

October 14 walk—Photography Workshop on the Pine Tree Trail near Aguirre Springs, Organ Mountains, with Lisa Mandelkern and members of NMSU Biology Dept. Meet at K-mart parking lot on Hwy. 70 at 10 am.

October 27-28 field trip—Overnighter to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Leave for park on your own Friday. Plan to stay either at campgrounds in the park, or at motel in nearby Whites City, NM. Group will meet early Saturday morning for plant excursion led by Charles Galt, a Las Cruces chapter member and expert on the natural history of GMNP.

November 8 meeting—Examples from the photography workshop of October 14 will be shown.

December 2 walk—Excursion by bus to Bosque del Apache to see evening fly-in of water birds. Meet at Las Cruces Museum of Natural History in Mesilla Valley Mall at 11 am; will return to Las Cruces by 9 pm. Registration and \$25 fee required. Sign up at Museum (522-3120).

December 6 meeting—Annual planning meeting. 5 pm, location to be announced. Please attend – it's informal and great fun!

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

## Activities & Events

### Otero (Alamogordo)

October 14-15 field trip—Trip to Carlsbad to salvage plants along Hwy. 62/180 from Carlsbad to the Texas border. Those interested in participating are asked to call Helgi at 585-3315, or e-mail her at [hkasak@netmdc.com](mailto:hkasak@netmdc.com). The plants can be used in our yards, or provided to public parks, or possibly kept to sell at our plant sale. Workers can be at least partially reimbursed for expenses.

October 28 meeting—Annual meeting and potluck, 12 noon at Art and Chris Baker's Laborcita Canyon home. For more information, contact Helgi Osterreich, 585-3315, or [hkasak@netmdc.com](mailto:hkasak@netmdc.com).

November—TBA

### Santa Fe

Meetings are at 7 p.m. at College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Dr., Luke Hall, Room 303.

For more information contact: Tom Antonio at 473-6465, [tantonio@csf.edu](mailto:tantonio@csf.edu); or Carol Johnson at 466-1303, [gcjohnson@comcast.net](mailto:gcjohnson@comcast.net).

October 18 talk—"The Dark Side of Plants" by Carol Johnson and Tom Antonio.

November 15 talk—"Native Trees of New Mexico" by Mark Wood, board president of Santa Fe Botanical Garden. A horticulturist and manager of Payne's Nurseries in Santa Fe, Wood is interested in native uses of medicinal plants.


December—Holiday potluck, TBA.

### Taos

Meetings are Wednesdays at 7 pm at the San Geronimo Lodge. Program topics and field trips subject to change. Check daily listings in the *Taos News Tempo* and your e-mails from NPS-Taos for updates or e-mail Kathryn Peel: [HRXpert@msn.com](mailto:HRXpert@msn.com).

October 11 talk—"Winterizing Your Garden" by Jan Enright, owner of El Prado Gardens.

November 8—TBA.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, New Mexico's natural heritage is among our greatest assets, and we have a responsibility to protect that heritage through increased education and awareness about our native ecology; and*

*WHEREAS, New Mexico's wealth of native plant species—among the highest numbers in the United States—are vital to that ecology, supporting many different birds and animals in the highly diverse habitats found throughout our state, from arid desert to alpine meadows; and*

*WHEREAS, New Mexicans and visitors alike appreciate the beauty and variety of our native plants and their importance to our spectacular landscape; and*

*WHEREAS, there is growing concern that many of our native plants—some of which are found nowhere else on earth—are in danger of unintentional destruction through lack of familiarity and understanding;*

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2006 as:

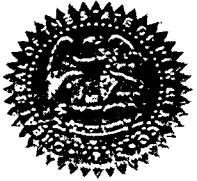
## "New Mexico Native Plant Day"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:



Rebecca Vigil-Giron  
Secretary of State



Done at the Executive Office this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2006.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the Great State of New Mexico



Bill Richardson  
Governor

## New Mexico Native Plant Day, 2006

Declaring that "New Mexico's wealth of native plant species—among the highest numbers in the United States—are vital to [our] ecology, supporting many different birds and animals in the highly diverse habitats found throughout our state, from arid desert to alpine meadows," Governor Bill Richardson declared September 23, 2006, as "New Mexico Native Plant Day."

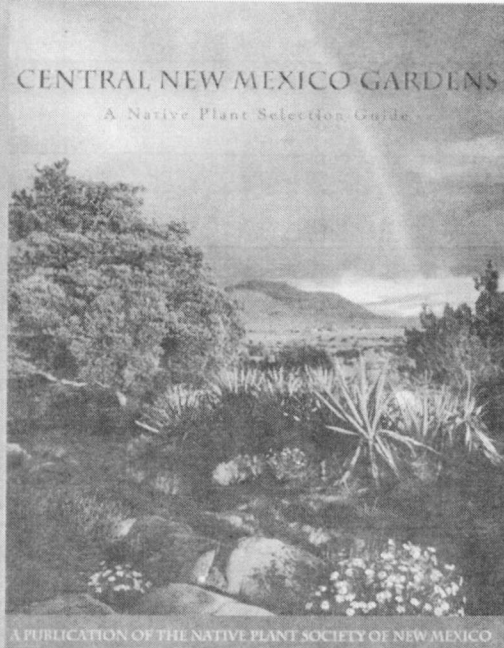
## More News from the Chapters

### Gila Chapter

#### ORV Impacts Documented

Some Gila Chapter (GNPS) volunteers spent their summer hiking, photographing, and filling out reports on off-road vehicle (ORV) impacts in the Gila National Forest. Chapter president Donna Stevens compiled the information in response to the U.S. Forest Service's request for input on the proliferation of ORV routes, noise, and destruction of habitat in the Gila NF. Stevens submitted to the Forest Service hundreds of photos of resource damage, and recommendations for the closure of specific routes, some of which negatively impact habitat for endangered species of plants and animals, including Mexican spotted owls and Southwestern willow flycatchers.

—For other Gila activities, see page 4



**CENTRAL NEW MEXICO GARDENS**  
A Native Plant Selection Guide

All plants are...

- native to our area.
- compatible with our environment.
- adapted to our climate and soils.
- water conserving.
- available in local nurseries.

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

Transform your yard into an inviting natural landscape using native plants! The Native Plant Society of New Mexico has produced an inexpensive, easy to use guide featuring 94 color photographs of trees, shrubs, vines, succulents, grasses and wildflowers suitable for landscapes in central New Mexico. Colorful and rugged, these plants look superb in gardens, require minimum water to maintain, and offer food and shelter to native wildlife. Color photographs and text cover how and where to plant, cultivation and maintenance.

Available to the public for \$12.95 (plus shipping and handling). Discount available when purchasing ten or more copies. NPSNM members: \$10.00 each. Contact Katie Babuska at [k\\_babuska@hotmail.com](mailto:k_babuska@hotmail.com). For more information about NPSNM membership, publications, posters and t-shirts, visit our website at <http://npsnm.unm.edu>.

### Otero Chapter

#### 2006 Scholarships Awarded

Three New Mexico State University students, Sandy Cervantes, Sarah Ricketts, and Jeanne Tenorio are sharing the \$2,000 scholarship awarded by the Otero Chapter of NPSNM.

Cervantes is a biology major who is interested in studying the effect of habitat fragmentation on native vegetation and has done plant surveys for The Nature Conservancy.

Ricketts is an environmental science major who has been studying the carbon metabolism of Chihuahuan Desert plants and intends to do her masters degree research in phytoremediation.

Tenorio is a biology major who has worked on the Jornada Long-Term Ecological Research site, studying how native plants withstand the heat loads in the southern NM summers, and wants to do graduate work in plant taxonomy.

The awards were presented at a luncheon hosted by the Biology Department August 23.

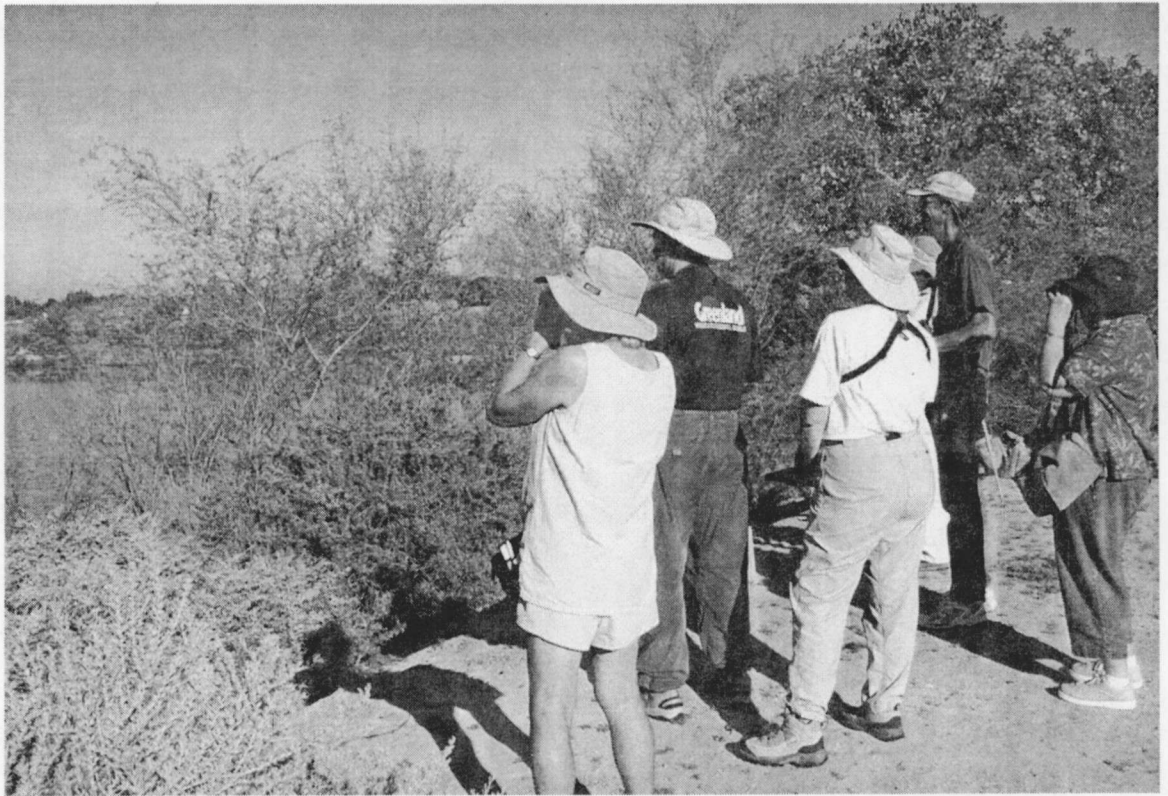
The chapter awards yearly scholarships to NMSU students majoring or doing graduate work in a field of the biological sciences that will foster the understanding and conservation of the flora of New Mexico. In addition to the scholarship, the chapter donates annually to the NMSU Herbarium Endowment Fund in memory of the chapter's founder, Bill Mayfield.



Scholarship recipients Sarah Ricketts, Sandy Cervantes, and Jeanne Tenorio (L-R).

There were plenty of native plants and birds to enjoy among the restored wetlands at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in El Paso, one of the field trips at the 2006 annual statewide meeting.

Photo by Renée West



**The Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
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