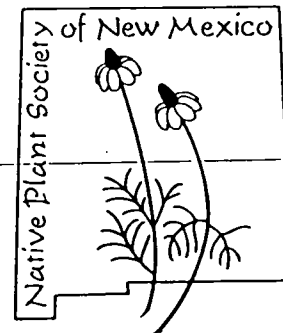


# Newsletter

Native Plant Society of New Mexico



September/October 1984

Volume IX, No. 5

## Calendar

- Sept/Oct Albuquerque Chapter: No schedule received by press time.
- Sept/Oct Glenn Niners will meet with the Albuquerque Chapter.
- Sept. -- Santa Fe Chapter will meet in front of the P.E.R.A. Building at 9:00 a.m. for their field trip to Deer Creek Canyon. The Sierra Club will join them for the trip. Call Iris David, 988-1709, for further details.
- Sept. 9 Las Cruces Chapter plans a field trip to the Dona Ana Mountains. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the NMSU Pan Am Center parking lot. Bring lunch, water and sun protection.
- Sept. 12 Las Cruces Chapter will host Sandy Anderson who will speak on composites at 7:30 p.m. in Room 190, Agriculture Building, NMSU.
- Sept. 16 Lincoln County Chapter (to be) will be having an organizational meeting at the Luidoso Public Library at 2:00 p.m. Carolyn Northington is urging all interested persons in Lincoln County to come. Members of other chapters are warmly invited to come and give a helping hand. For more information call Carolyn at 257-6061.
- Sept. 22 Santa Fe Chapter will have an exhibit at the Santa Fe  
-23 Council of Garden Clubs Flower Show on Saturday from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of College of Santa Fe Alumni Hall.
- Sept. 23 Southeast Chapter members will meet at Dr. Jerry Ainsworth's office parking lot at 8:00 a.m. for a field trip to Cloudcroft and surrounding area. The group's interest will be in identifying mushrooms as well as plants native to the higher elevations.

(continued)

## President's Message

As fall approaches it's time to make our choices in the upcoming elections. Unfortunately, much of the media's attention has been directed at the economy, nuclear proliferation and concerns other than the environment. It is, however, very important that we continue to monitor our elected officials' performance concerning this issue. I don't believe that any of us wants another disaster such as James Watt in public office again. I urge all of you to vote in the November elections and to vote your environmental conscience.

This is being written during our annual meeting in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Hello again to all of you who were here and a "sorry" to those who missed it. Once again, it was an outstanding success and a big thank you is in order to Iris David, Phyllis Hughes, Lisa Johnston and Judith for pulling it all together.

Ted Hodoba

It happens too often:

A chapter member invites (with maybe a little begging and selling) a busy person to be the guest (meaning free) speaker at a scheduled meeting.

The considerable work, and sometime travel, that goes into preparing and presenting a good, bad or indifferent program is rewarded by a miniaudience, a membership that stays away in droves.

This is a matter for regret and apology but we need to do better than that. Suggestions, anyone?

The editorial we will be away through September. We'll take care of Newsletter mail soon after our return.

George Finley

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### Calendar, continued

- Oct. 7            Las Cruces Chapter will have a field trip to Kilbourne Hole. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the NMSU Pan Am parking lot. Bring lunch, water and sun protection.
- Oct. 10           Las Cruces Chapter will assemble in Room 190, Ag Building, NMSU for a movie about Sandia Mountains: "Plants and Animals of the West Face". For more information on any Las Cruces meeting call 522-8068, 523-1806 or 523-5179.
- Oct. 17           Santa Fe Chapter will meet in Room 118, Lab Building, St. John's College at 7:30 p.m. to hear Judith Phillip's program: "Plant Propagation".
- Oct 28           Otero Chapter will have a weekend trip to the Guadalupe Mountains. Birders are welcome, too. See Otero Chapter Report for more information.
- 29

## Chapter Reports

Otero/Lincoln Chapter: On June 24, Jim Lewis from the Albuquerque Chapter spoke on his favorite subject: "Gardening Without Work: Wild Gardens" using slides to illustrate the use of mulch instead of weeding.

On July 29, our chapter gathered for a picnic and field trip at Bailey Canyon west of Cloudcroft in the Sacramento Mountains. Paul Gordon, just retired from the Forest Service, and Randy Kussel of the Forest Service identified some of the native plants of the area and spoke of the growth habits and interdependence of these plants. The mountains are covered with wildflowers right now.

Paul Gordon has made arrangements for both native plant enthusiasts and bird watchers to take a trip to the Guadalupe Mountains on October 27 and 28. We hope that members from other areas will join us. Bring drinking water. Meet at the confluence of Sitting Bull Falls and Last Chance Canyon at 1:00 p.m., October 27. The meeting place will be well marked. Frank Hayes of the Forest Service will join Paul Gordon in leading a trip through the Sitting Bull Falls area on Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning a tour of Last Chance Canyon is planned. Mr. Hayes reports that the riparian plant community is just gorgeous and birding is especially good in Last Chance Canyon. There is a good place to camp but no real facilities.

Carolyn Northington of Kuidoso has offered to start a chapter for the mountain people of the area. Even with two separate chapters we will plan joint trips, especially during the summer heat.

Jean Dodd

Santa Fe Chapter: We had a most enjoyable July field trip to Rio en Medio on an especially beautiful day. Dr. Don Lowrie led the group of 17 on this field trip and we saw almost 40 different kinds of plants and flowers growing in this cool, refreshing, little green valley with the small stream--"Rio en Medio"--winding through the middle.

Our members, led by Iris David, took their August field trip to Black Canyon instead of Hopewell Lake, as originally planned. Another group of 17 turned out for this field trip. Due to plenty of rain and moisture retained in the high mountain area, there was a noticeable difference in the height of many wildflowers. Those especially tall and colorful were the Indian paintbrush and evening primrose, growing to a height almost three times that of those seen growing in the high desert country. Many varieties of wildflowers and grasses were seen. Black Canyon, en route to Hyde Park Ski Basin, is a particularly good spot to visit in early spring where wild iris and chiming bells are most colorful in the grassy meadows and under the aspen and ponderosa pines along mountain slopes. Purple and white violets also bloom along the banks of the small stream in the filtered sunlight areas.

Dovie Thomas  
Southeast Chapter: June 21st, Gary Wood of BLM's Roswell office brought information, hand outs, showed slides and talked about BLM's continuing research on control of unwanted range plants. Focus was on eradication of shinnery or scrub oak in the sand hills east of Roswell. Complete eradication is not desired because reinfestation is slow and the extensive root systems help

(continued)

Chapter reports, continued

stabilize a very loose soil. Gary discussed cost effectiveness, problems resulting from multiple ownership of lands and much more.

George Finley

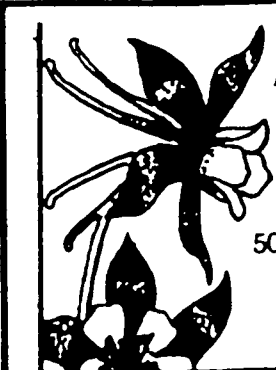
The July 19th meeting of the Southeast Chapter was billed as a "Show and Tell" affair. But honestly, it was more like "Show and Search to Tell".

With the help of three microscopes and wildflower "keying" libraries brought to the meeting by Jerry Ainsworth and Gussie Schooley, we did manage to correctly identify four or five of the many, many flower specimens brought to the meeting. In truth, we probably had enough specimens to keep us busy for a year, but since no one had brought a toothbrush, we adjourned, promising a future return engagement.

Jean McElroy

In August, our members enjoyed a slide presentation by Joe Strasser. Joe, an avid bow and arrow hunter, has stalked the Texas, New Mexico and Colorado mountains in searching for great hunting areas. In doing so, he has also spent literally hundreds of hours with his 35 mm camera. His photographs include mountain lions, elk, brown bears, javelinas, all species of ducks and of course, mule deer. What a lovely evening it was!

Nina Eppley



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We will be starting a seed exchange for and by NPS members. Members are encouraged to send any "extra" seeds to NPS-NM Seed Exchange, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Please label the seeds as to name and source. On seed collected from the wild, give location (i.e., one mile south of San Acacia off east frontage road) and brief site description, if possible. If seed is collected from your garden please indicate if there is a possibility of hybridization (as where several species of penstemon that flower concurrently are grown in the same garden plot.) Please send only relatively clean seed. An Albuquerque Chapter contingent will manage packaging (volunteers welcome!). A list will be compiled and available to members. Seed will be obtainable for the cost of postage.

Judith Phillips

Jim Lewis will be teaching the course, "Gardening Without Work-- Wild Gardens" on Wednesdays, August 29 to October 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at UNM Community College in Albuquerque. He will demonstrate how to avoid spading, cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn mowing; automatic creation of top soil; availability of free mulch and ground cover materials; and the use of predators to control pests. The design of natural gardens and the use of native edible plants will be emphasized.

One session is in the classroom with the other sessions in natural gardens and on field trips.

For information call UNM Community College 277-3751 or Jim Lewis 881-7423.

# There's a New Mesquite on the Freeway

By Richard Spellenberg

If one makes the trip often enough the ride on I-10 from Las Cruces to Deming is horrrrr---ing. Mile after mile is degraded arid grassland, now mostly sand dunes held in place by a shrubby low mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *torreyana*. However, about 20 miles west of Las Cruces the not too deadened eye catches another form of mesquite in the center strip and along the shoulder, one that is definitely a small tree with drooping foliage, much softer in appearance than the native, desert-hardened shrub.

This "new" mesquite is the other variety of the honey mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*. It very likely is making a westward march along the freeway where increased water run-off from the pavement, and the disturbed situation, allows it to establish and apparently flourish. There is a good chance the source of these mesquite plants trace back to Las Cruces where the tree is increasingly used as an ornamental, the nursery stock for these coming from eastern and southern Texas. Marshall Johnston, a taxonomist at the University of Texas, Austin, published a technical paper in 1962 (in *Brittonia*) for all the mesquites of North America, and maps the var. *glandulosa* for New Mexico only from the southeastern corner; from there eastward and southward. Martin and Hutchins in *A Flora of New Mexico* also map this variety only in the southeastern part of the state. It should be interesting to watch the westward progress of this tree; now it barely extends west of Akela.

What scientific name to apply

to our mesquites still has many people puzzled. The older used name, *Prosopis juliflora*, actually is restricted to a species that is tropical and mostly coastal, and should no longer be applied to our honey mesquite. The individual leaflets of *P. juliflora* are each less than five times as long as broad. On the west coast of the mainland of Mexico it barely extends north of the southern tip of Baja California.

In New Mexico we have only the honey mesquite (*P. glandulosa*), the screwbean mesquite (*P. pubescens*) and the velvet mesquite (*P. velutina*). Screwbean mesquite is easy to tell--the pods are coiled in a tight spiral. They usually hang on the tree a full season, but also can be found beneath the trees. The species is found along the Rio Grande. Velvet mesquite, restricted in New Mexico to Hidalgo Co., has finely pubescent leaflets and young twigs. It is definitely a tree, and its leaflets are less than five times as long as broad, contrasting to the leaflets of the similar honey mesquite.

The two varieties of the honey mesquite are not difficult either, if they are pure. However, where they come into contact they intergrade, as they eventually should along the freeway in southern New Mexico. Our more common var. *torreyana* has individual leaflets that are 10-30 mm long, about one half to one and one fourth inches, each leaflet only five to eight times as long as broad. The var. *glandulosa*, in addition to being much more of a tree, has leaflets 25-62 mm long, about one to two and one half inches, each leaflet is eight to 15 times as long as broad.

# Cactus and Canyons

By Lisa Johnston and Judith Phillips

Read all about our state NPS annual meet, August 11 and 12 at Las Vegas, in this effervescent report.

The day began with recurring "Good to see you again" and "Glad to meet you" spreading like ripples across a pond. We were off to World College, an impressive international peace-through-understanding effort, and the Montezuma Castle. Touring the castle included an aerobic workout, a stairway up the mountain highlighted by the occasional delphinium and gilia. The climb brought us into another era, into a ballroom that dwarfed the grand piano, with a view that dwarfed the ballroom.

Then we were on the road again, into Gallinas Canyon for a few rounds of stump the botanist chaired by Don Lowrie, Iris David, Myra McCormick, Jim Borland, Lisa Johnston and Tom Wootten, depending where you were along the trail. We learned all the common names for Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, a new method for keying some members of the buttercup family (does it turn your chin yellow?) and the art of taxonomic compromise: Amorpha canesens or fruticosa--how about A. frutescens, the hybrid of a fertile imagination. Recent rains created a rich flower show and an abundance of fungi including the deadly Amanita and another toxic relative, Amanita muscaria, fly agaric.

The mid-afternoon program, a slide presentation and talk on native uses of endemic plants given by Phyllis Hughes included a discussion of Equisetum, past and present, for pot scrubbing,

as a pre-sandpaper abrasive of early woodworkers and a present day reed refining tool of musicians. Yucca fiber brushes are an ancient potters' tool still preferred by present day craftsmen. Phyll also pointed out that we were in the same room with an effective evil eye deterrent, gayfeather roots, still actively traded among Jemez people. (Liatris punctata was among the items donated for auction--we're happy to report that Jim Meem and his garden are now immune to various curses.) The lively question and answer session that accompanied Phyl's talk was emceed by Jerry Jordan.

Jim Borland opened his evening talk with a question--what makes native plants different from a propagation standpoint? --Nothing! The best way of dealing with natives is to consider them as individuals. African violets aren't propagated like roses, so why think you can germinate desert zinnia like you would evening primrose? Attention to the specific preferences for temperature and light or darkness will get you further. Jim gave several references valuable when researching the specifics: The bible, known to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington DC 20402 as Seeds of Woody Plants in United States, Ag. handbook 450; Hartman and Kester's text, Plant Propagation; Growing Colorado Plants from Seed: A State of the Art Vol. 3: Forbs from the US Dept. of Agriculture, Office of Biological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240 and Germination and Establishment of Weeds for Experimental Purposes by Robert N. Andersen from Weed Science Society of America, 2025 Burlison Drive, Urbana, 11 61801.

Discussing stratification, or better, the cold-moist treatment of seeds, Jim suggested that perhaps the increased availability of oxygen in the 34-41 degree temperature range is key to the effectiveness of this seed pre-treatment and reminded us that new frost free refrigerators not only dry out the seed and medium but operate at temperatures that fluctuate greatly from the preferred range. Hang on to that old fridge.

A plus in having our Denver member, Jim Borland, as speaker was meeting his wife, Dorothy, whose expertise is native grasses, giving like-minded members an opportunity to "talk turf".

The silent auction has become a keynote feature of the annual meeting, Plants, signed copies of books, handmade soaps, hand dyed and woven belts and yarn and an embroidered logo tee shirt were among the items donated for auction. The NPS-NM gold and silver medals for best bidders of the year go to Jerry Jordan and Lisa Johnston. Lisa broke the book budget while Jerry preferred the plants. (The authors claim this year's coveted Functional Alliterate Award.) Frances Szeman receives this year's gold medal for best "group spoof" with her Kool-aid dyed yarns.

Sunday's trip to McAllister Lake and the Las Vegas Wildfowl Refuge was a study in New Mexico's native diversity. Eleanor Wootton, Michele and David Peters and Wendy Leavens, our field guide, were happy spotting a bird population more varied than the Galinas Canyon crows. Since the tour began on the prairie and ended in an unexpectedly lush canyon, flora finders noted Mirabilis linearis, sedges, Chrysopsis villosa, Teucrium, poison ivy and Equisetum (as understory of a Rocky Mountain juniper). Walter Graf deserves a gold for his stirring defense of composites-- "What, you want everything should be lilies!"

Serious birding and botanizing were temporarily interrupted by an impromptu Mini-Reverse Calaveras County Frog Race where tiny frogs bet on which NPSer would get a closer look and/or wetter feet. We also solved the problem of when is a Phlox not an Oenothera-- or the difficulties of observing the flora while traveling single file along a trail--literally a running commentary.

If there was any drawback to this annual meeting, it was lack of time. We had to forego the walking tour of Las Vegas' architectural high spots--although some of us got to experience the chocolate raspberry ice cream at the drugstore across the plaza. That alone was reportedly worth the trip to LV from Alamogordo.

Several show and tell programs were canceled due to lack of time and we'd suggest local chapters draw on their valuable member resources for future programs: George and Myrtle Finley, George on transplanting techniques that net 95% success even while flowering (George claims it's all common sense, but then that sometimes seems a rare and endangered commodity) and Myrtle on dried flowers as ornamentals; Don Lowrie is preparing an extensive bibliography of references for identifying forbs of northern New Mexico and Ted Hodoba can talk Penstemons anywhere, anytime.

The Plaza Hotel proved to be the best possible meeting place. The hotel itself is a joy to visit, restored with an eye for detail that made just standing in the lobby entertaining. Contrary to popular opinion, the botanical prints gracing the hallways and rooms were not hung solely to welcome NPS-NM visitors. Our thanks to a calm, cordial and very helpful Plaza staff.

So...the planning committee for the '85 annual meeting is currently seeking volunteers... Give yourself a break, see you next year.

# Publications

Flowering Plants of New Mexico, a sketchbook by Robert Dewitt Ivey, \$11.00.

A few years ago DeWitt Ivey, a biology teacher at Sandia High School, started sketching New Mexico flowers.

The result is this sketchbook featuring about 460 of the most common flowers native to our state.

Here's a great little book for those beginning to learn about wild plants and for those who are far along but still need help in identification.

Sketches are excellent, showing the important details of each plant. Sketches are accompanied by brief labels giving the plants' common and botanical name, plant family, color of bloom and date of bloom.

The book starts with a brief description of flowering plants of New Mexico, instructions (illustrated) on collecting plants, directions for examining flowers, how to use a key, how to understand plants in general, sketches showing different plant parts, a brief outline on plant names and classifications, characteristics of major plant families (by sketch and brief label only), a flower-and-fruit calendar, a list of useful and edible plants, and short chapters on ecology, ecosystems, life zones and climates.

These are illustrated with sketches by the author.

This is followed by the portfolio of sketches--115 pages of sketches with an average of four flowers per page.

This section has very little text. In fact, the only printed words in the portfolio section are the labels.

Probably no one can simplify the complicated Compositae (daisy) family, but Ivey comes about as close as anyone has to doing so.

Not all composites are included. That would be impossible. New Mexico has more than 300 of them. But Ivey deals with the most common and the ones the average hiker is likely to find.

The book is privately published and is available at many Albuquerque bookstores. It is spiralbound and is small enough to carry on a hike or keep in the car or camper.

Excerpted with permission of The Albuquerque Journal from Soil and Toil by Judy Nickell. -Ed.

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Agroecology--The Scientific Basis of Alternative Agriculture. Written and distributed by Miguel Altieri, 1050 San Pablo Ave., Albany, CA 94706. \$11.00 (includes mailing); make checks payable to Agroecology.

Dr. Altieri, a South American now working for the Division of Biological Control at the University of California at Berkeley, has written a book that analyzes the ecological benefits of practices derived from indigenous agriculture around the world. For almost a decade, he has been publishing technical articles on the beneficial use of weeds, cover crops and intercropping in the control of pests and diseases.

With this book he synthesized much of his own primary research and that of others to outline the principles of ecological management of vegetable, grain and tree crops, with their associated weeds, insects and soil microbes. In it, the wisdom accumulated by farmers over centuries is not discarded, but built upon.

From No 5, 1984, Seedhead News, Native Seeds/Search, 3950 West New York Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745.

Judith Phillips



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Our new masthead, this issue, introduces the new logo which by your votes won the logo contest. We are proud of our logo which is the result of the untiring efforts of Lisa Johnston to provide it for NPS activities, NPS stationery and the Newsletter. -Ed.



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To better serve our membership, please check areas of particular interest.

Conservation:

- Endangered species; Habitats  
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 Propagation  Seed Collection  
 Landscaping:  Residential  
 Civic  Commercial  Highway

How would you describe your level of expertise? What areas would you be willing to help with?

Are you a member of an organization with related purposes (Garden Club, NM Wildflower Association, etc.)?

Dear Editor,

I need 20 to 25 seeds, if at all possible, of the following Ipomoea species which are native to New Mexico and Arizona, for conservation, preservation, seed production and experimental and genetical purposes:

I. barbatisepala, I. capillacea (syn. I. muricata), I. cardiophylla, I. costellata, I. cristulata, I. heterophylla, I. hirsutula, I. leptotoma, I. Lindheimeri, I. longifolia, I. rupicola, and I. tenuiloba. Will exchange for Ipomoea species I have;

please state cost per species also, if there is no seed exchange, for either seeds or plants (tuberous bulb type).

My project is to locate, collect and grow all Ipomoea species native to U.S.A. and abroad for multiplication of seeds/plants to be transferred to seed banks and to growers who will save them for future generations.

Sincerely yours,  
Gary W. Lowe  
10341 Desdemona Dr.  
Dallas, Texas 75228

Can someone help this man either with seeds or information?

-Ed.



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Combining the stalking skills of a bow hunter with the interests of a naturalist, Joe Strasser, Diagnostic Marketing Corporation, 5300 Pan American Freeway NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 884-1988 has great slides and interesting commentary on the birds and animals of this and adjacent areas. He travels the state and, within his schedule, is available to your Chapter.

George Finley

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