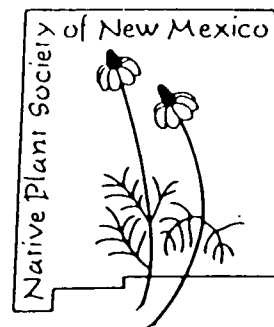


Newsletter

Native Plant Society of New Mexico



September/October, 1985

Volume X, No. 5

Calendar

- Sept. 4 Albuquerque Chapter hosts Rex Funk with the Open Space Division of City Parks and Recreation who will speak on the Elena Gallegos grant, etc.
- Sept. 8 Los Cruces Chapter members hope their planned trip to the San Andres Wildlife Refuge will materialize. Their request to enter White Sands Missile Range has been in for two months. Meet at Pan Am Center at 8:00 a.m. but first call Tom or Bob as your name must be submitted.
- Sept. 11 Las Cruces Chapter's program to be announced. Meet at 7:30 p.m. NMSU, Ag Bldg., Room 190.
- Sept. 18 Santa Fe Chapter will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Lab Bldg. at St. Johns College. Phyllis Hughes will give a program on Culinary Native Plants which includes a slide show and recipe handouts.
- Oct. 2 Albuquerque Chapter's program to be announced.
- Oct. 9 Las Cruces Chapter will enjoy a program by Paul Richmond. Paul is very modest about his knowledge of plants but gives a very interesting and fun program. He and Helen make quite a team. Catch their act at 7:30 p.m. at NMSU, Ag Bldg. Room 190.

From The Editor(s)

President's Message

With the coming of autumn, many natives will be setting seed. It would be helpful if you would collect this seed from your garden plants or those growing nearby and send them to our seed exchange chairperson. We would like to get this project off and running but so far we have had little response from the members. Let's get this going this year!

Fall is also the time to be thinking of the upcoming nomination and election of Society officers. If you know of any member or perhaps yourself who would be interested, remember all positions will be open for your choosing. It's actually quite a lot of fun, rewarding, and not all that much work.

Ted

The no charge NPS/NM annual meet in Las Cruces was great. The weather was friendly. You don't need to be a climatologist to know the odds against that happening in desert southern New Mexico during summer are high. We don't need to be acting Woottens, Helen Polley, Bob Reeves and friends to realize the work of planning, arranging and hosting such a meet is heavy.

The real hazard in seeing this model meet as a precedent to follow is that we can't reasonably expect to find these kinds of people everywhere nor every time.

Sure, we're all volunteers but those who arrange and host these get-togethers should have at least a little expense money. And the logical source for that seems a little "fee from me and thee" who enjoy the entertainment and hospitality.

George



Who would like to be the new editor for the Newsletter? We have decided to let someone else have the opportunity. The new editor(s) would start January 1. We will do the January/February issue and mail it late in December. Send us your names if you're interested and we'll get them to the next Executive Board meeting. More about this on page 7.

More New Members. Wonderful!

Myrtle

WELCOME TO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Albuquerque Chapter

Ted and Maria Wolff
Sheri Bearse
Nancy Baumgarten
Dr. and Mrs. Robert
Rosnagle

Las Cruces Chapter

Don and Ullie Alt
Daniel and Helene
Horacek

Ramona and Don Orton

Otero Chapter

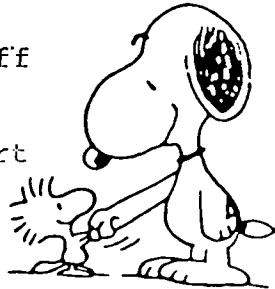
Harold Thompson
Ada Wester
Bonnie Brodersen and
Gene Robbins

Santa Fe Chapter

Anne and Walter Kunz

New Mexico at large

Angel Fire,
Margie and Bob Newsome
Las Vegas,
Cheryl Lewis



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Chapter Reports

Albuquerque Chapter: In July, we had a walking tour of the Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm, just south of Albuquerque, near Veguita. We were fortunate in that many of the beautiful natives were in full bloom. We also walked to a nearby hill, to observe the effects of overgrazing. It was a very refreshing outdoor meeting and we thank Judith Phillips for the tour.

Our August meeting was canceled because of the annual state meeting in Las Cruces.

Suzy Sultemeier

Chaves County Chapter: On our latest field trip, to the rest area on Highway 285 east of Roswell, many of us had our first experience at seeing Mescalero Sands.

The sand dunes were covered in some areas with sunflowers. Elsewhere was the scrub oak. Our greatest treat was seeing several bush morning glories with their majestic hues. Other plants seen were senna, evening primrose, aster, milkweed, catclaw, sticky ring and sand verbena. The yellow and blue daleas were spectacular. The grasshoppers had feasted on the spectacle pod fruit.

At the rest area we watched a scissor tail feeding four young ones and spied a nighthawk sleeping on a small limb.

Nina Keeler

Las Cruces Chapter: Dripping Springs was the site of our June field trip. The highlight was seeing Oenothera Organensis, the Organ Mountain primrose which is a threatened species since it is only found naturally in the wet areas of the Organ Mountains. Dr. Richard Spellenberg's comments about the flower parts, including the nectary which attracts

extremely long-tongued moths for pollination, were particularly interesting. We also saw Penstemon barbatus, Stechys coccinea, a showy milkweed, and many other flowers in bloom. The fruits of the little leaf mulberry were particularly tasty.

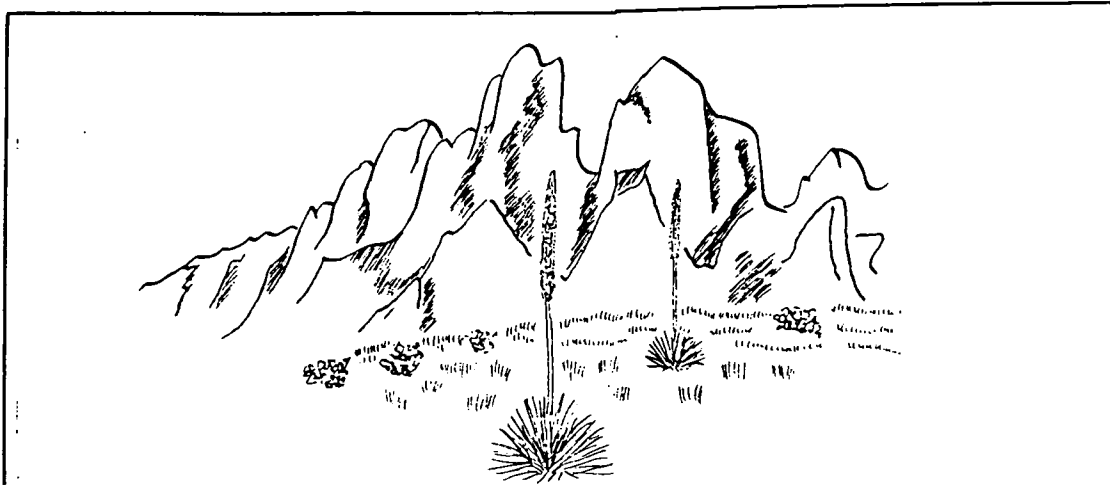
Helen Sprecher, for our June meeting, gave us a demonstration on use of a plant press. Her presentation was quite informative and well done. Plant specimens were also identified. We had two visitors from Hobbs who, we hope, will help start a chapter of NPS in their area. Good luck and happy flower hunting to both.

A pop quiz started the July meeting. Everyone was asked to identify, by family, a number of specimens. A discussion of some field characteristics of the different plant families followed. July's field trip was to the site of a natural spring near Kingston, N.M. where we saw some introduced plants, such as water lilies, now growing wild and some fruit trees. We also saw wild honeysuckle and sweet peas, along with many other mountain wildflowers.

Tom Wootten

Otero Chapter: Three Rivers, at the edge of Lincoln National Forest, is a fairly abrupt change from the surrounding desert plant community. Most of the plants seen there on our June 30 field trip were familiar--alligator juniper, gray oak, Arizona live oak, pinon, Apache plume, New Mexico locust, brickellia, lemonade bush, mountain mahogany, silk tassel, algerita, velvet ash, narrow leaf cottonwood, forresteria, bur oak and gambel oak. Some of these plants were not recognized immediately because their shapes were different from those we were used to seeing. It's

(continued on last page)



How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By Judith Phillips

I like Las Cruces, always have. This year's statewide NPS meeting has given me at least a dozen more reasons for my Southern bias. The one reservation we had about having our annual bash in August in Las Cruces was the weather. Not to worry. It only rained, on cue, before or after field trips and a light cloud cover the rest of the time made for very comfortable hiking. Whoever was in charge of planning the weather lives right.

The agenda called for a bit of traveling--into the Organ Mountains and across the flats to White Sands. Carpooling made the trips entertaining, conversation leapfrogging from mining to movie reviews with stops in Europe and hilltop Tennessee. Our "real" stops to regroup and a minor mechanical delay became opportunities for roadside botanizing. It's hard to inconvenience a group that can't get out of the car without finding an unfamiliar four-o'clock to visit over.

Speaking of four-o'clocks, a hand lens revealed the wine red splendor of a perennial spiderling (Boerhaavia). The spiderling and a blue milkwort (Polygala), another Lilliputian jewel suggested a new art project--a series of "wildflower cameos", a

great idea we expect to see completed in this lifetime (ahem). Not all the inspiration required a hand lens. I look for possible landscape ornamentals whether I want to or not. They jump out at me. Silk tassel (Garrya) is one whose time has come (aesthetically speaking, from a propagator's perspective it may take a few years. Anyone out there have access to seeds or know the ins and outs of cuttings? Garrya is a dogwood so cuttings could work easily or not at all). Shrub salvia (S. pinquifolia), woolly rosemary (Poliomentha) and mariola (Parthenium) are other garden possibilities we saw at Aguirre Springs, White Sands and the west foothills of the Organ Mountains near Dripping Springs, our three field trip sites.

The Aguirre Springs trip took us from the creosote bush (Larrea) flats through a sotol (Dasyllirion) forest into pine/juniper highlands. A short stop midway allowed close inspection of a New Mexico buckeye (Ungnadia)--we let the El Paso NPS people along for the morning expedition call it Texas buckeye--we can be big about these things, especially during monsoon season. The many magnificent specimens of alligator

(continued)

juniper (J. depeanna) were enough to endear the place to me. Although Tom Wootten and Bob Reeves, our capable hosts, thought we were a little early for the flush of wildflowers recent rains will spawn, we saw dayflowers (Comelina and Tradescantia), wallflowers (Erysimum), vine snapdragons (Maurandya), four-o'clocks (Allionia)--a spot of color at every turn

On returning to Las Cruces we took a brief tour of Dry Country Plants. The Texas sage (Leucophyllum) looked too good to pass up. A few Albuquerque Chapter members and the Socorro delegation are searching for warm micro climates to grow their latest compulsion--encouraged by the only successful Zone 8 gardener in Albuquerque. (Good luck, I hope you succeed so I can try again).

Thanks to the prize donors and bidders, the silent auction again anything but silent and was a lot of fun. (A personal thanks to Frances Szeman for embroidering a medium tee shirt).

There are no words to describe White Sands. Our evening visit was highlighted by a spectacular lightning display in the distant mountains and precipitated another member project--a field guide to the flora of the interior dunes. It will certainly be easy to illustrate, edit and index the finished product as close as the nearest stack of typing paper.

A heavy rainstorm led to an unscheduled midnight frog hunt well attended by the frogs of Las Cruces who turned out to watch a flashlight wielding amphibiphile who shall remain nameless.

Sunday morning's trip to a rock outcrop near Dripping Springs was a fitting close to the week end. The rocky terrain held an amazing diversity of plant life--Condalia to Castilleja, Chihuahua flax and pale hibiscus, rough menodora, ocotillo, flowering Ferocactus (Wizlisenus was here) and melon loco

(Apodanthera) with both flowers and ribbed/banded fruit (but without painful stickers).

All this activity was fueled by box lunches arranged for by Bob Reeves and delivered by Eleanor Wootten and Helen Polley--NPS Meals on Wheels.

As usual the real draw of the meeting was the company. Whether your interests run to botanizing, rock hounding or climbing, birding or photographing the reproductive organs of a three foot long diamond back rattler (recently deceased--we didn't eat the melon loco), you can find a willing accomplice in NPSNM. Impromptu discussion, possibly because the group assembled from across the state, centered on community patterns rather than individual identities, and have given me the urge to reread Mountain Islands, Desert Seas by Federick Gehlbach.

Thank you to Tieraona Walker for her shuttle bus to Aguirre Springs and company along the way. Thanks again (and again) to the Woottens, Bob Reeves and Helen Polley for the hard work and hospitality that made this the best annual meeting yet.

We will begin planning next year's meeting soon--any suggestions for location and activities are most welcome.

Editor's note: Walter Graf, Albuquerque Chapter member, is the artist for the sketch of the Organ Mountains.



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AHS: First Rediscovery Awards

The American Horticultural Society announced the presentation of its first Wildflower Rediscovery Awards to five individuals who have discovered new populations of extremely rare species of wildflowers.

New populations of the plant, sandplain gerardia, Agalinis acuta, were discovered on Long Island by Bob Zaremba, a botanist for the New York Natural Heritage Program. Although sandplain gerardia was once found in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and Massachusetts, by 1973 botanists feared that the species had become extinct. Apparently, fire control and development were responsible for the decline of the species, which was once found in the open, grassy habitat characteristic of areas that are periodically cleared by natural fires. Two very small populations were discovered in cemeteries in Massachusetts, where regular, intermittent mowing had preserved the open conditions required by fire dependent species. However, no new populations of the plant were discovered until the fall of 1984 when Zaremba discovered one small and one large population. The discovery of 1,000 to 2,000 additional plants is very significant, since it doubles or triples the known population of the species.

Running buffalo clover, Trifolium stoloniferum, was rediscovered in west Virginia by Rodney Bartgis, a botanist at The Nature Conservancy West Virginia Field office. This species had not been seen anywhere in the wild since 1940, although it had once been found in the Ohio and Missouri river Basins. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office had ranked the species as possibly extinct until Bartgis discovered four plants which were located in

two sites in West Virginia. Today, 25 plants are known from two sites.

The rare aquatic plant, Bacopa stragula, mat-forming water hyssop, was found in Virginia by Larry Morse, National Research Associate at The Nature Conservancy, and Steve Croy from the Virginia Natural Diversity Program. These plants occurred in Maryland and Virginia at one time, but had not been seen since 1941. Two other populations, located after the initial discovery, bring the total known population of the species to about 100 plants. Arrangements are being made by The Nature Conservancy to protect these plants.

Several significant discoveries have been made in recent years by the staff of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. Jimmy Kagan rediscovered three species in Oregon, none of which had been seen in the wild for many years: Oregon semaphore grass, Pleuropogon oregonus; Applegate's milkvetch, Astragalus applegatii; and rough allocarya, Plagiobothrys hirtus.

All recipients received certificates and rewards from the American Horticultural Society's Wildflower Rediscovery Project Fund.

The American Horticultural Society, a national non-profit organization for gardeners, is vitally interested in the conservation of plants. Experts estimate that one-tenth of the species and varieties of plants native to the continental United States are in jeopardy. To increase awareness of endangered plants and to promote plant conservation, the Society instituted its Wildflower Rediscovery Project and published its 1985 Endangered Wildflowers


(continued)

Calendar. Funds from the calendar sales are being used to support conservation projects. Public response to the Wildflower Rediscovery Project and to the calendar has been overwhelming. The 1986 Endangered Wildflowers Calendar will be available in the late summer at the retail price of \$6.95. AHS members may purchase the calendar at the discounted price of \$6.25. Both include postage and handling.

For information about membership in the Society or the 1986 Endangered Wildflowers Calendar, please write to: AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, or call (703) 768-5700.

For more information on contents of this article phone Connie Clark: (703) 768-5700.

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Going to Utah? Call the Utah Wildflower Hotline (801) 581-4969 to hear what's blooming, where and when. (Sponsored by the State Arboretum of Utah.)

Please send your nominations for the 1986 slate of officers and board members to the Newsletter editors, 1001 Kings Drive, Roswell, NM 88201, who will get them to the next Executive Board meeting. As Ted suggested, you may want to volunteer for an office. The list need not be signed. With the Nov/Dec Newsletter you will receive your election ballot.

If you:

- Are bored and have time on your hands or are the efficient, time management type who can always do more
- Are dedicated to identification, appreciation, protection, propagation or cultivation of our native plants
- Enjoy communicating and working with interesting persons
- Love living within a tight budget
- Want lots of exchange publications
- Are seeking a continually varying mix of fun and frustration
- Can, in a limited space, provide something of interest to a small number of readers with diverse and sometime conflicting interests

• Don't have all the qualifications (who does?) but would like to be the new editor(s) of this Newsletter, you or you all may volunteer for or inquire about this job through us or any member of the Board.

Other than not assuming you're a spokesman for the Society or bursting the budget, the freedom is almost complete.

If you have questions about the nuts and bolts (scissors and paste) operations call or write us.

Because the two mailing permit fees cover only a calendar year the editorial transition should be early January '86 after we mail the Jan/Feb issue in late December.

We offer any assistance we can give and our best wishes to the new editor(s).

George Finley

1985 NPSNM OFFICERS

President--Ted Hodoba
 Vice-President--Lisa Johnston
 Recording Secretary--Frances Szeman
 Treasurer--Jean Dodd
 Membership Secretary--Judith Phillips
 Board Member--Iris David
 Board Member--Tom Wootten



Wildflowers Get An Even Break

By Ben Moffett

"I will be the gladdest thing under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one."

Edna St. Vincent Millay who penned those words, was concerned about flowers, but she had nothing on the Department of Interior's National Park Service. Among land management agencies, the National Park Service (NPS) has no peers in its effort to protect native wildflowers.

Some agencies were established to manage the land for multiple use and give equal consideration to harvesting timber, mining, grazing and consumptive recreational activities such as four-wheeling. Other agencies have flora and fauna as principal concerns, but in a pinch give the razor's edge to big game animals or waterfowl.

It's good that these agencies exist, because Americans have a variety of tastes and the public lands are for everyone's enjoyment. But the National Park Service has a special assignment, given to it by citizens through their congress and president in 1916. The mission: Conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife ...in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Given that mandate, the National Park Service can operate in a fashion that allows nature to run its course. In natural areas, the effort is to maintain the parks as vignettes of primitive America. Native species are allowed to compete among themselves for nourishment and space. Man-caused economic or social pressures that could tip the ecological balance are minimized.

You don't mess with Mother Nature in a national park. A remarkable 79-word sentence in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations reads:

"The possession, destruction, injury, defacement, removal or disturbance in any manner of any building, sign, equipment, monument, statue, marker, or other structure, or of any animal or plant matter and direct or indirect products thereof, including but not limited to petrified wood, flower, cone or other fruit, egg, nest or nesting site, or of any soil, rock, mineral formation, phenomenon of crystallization, artifact, relic, historic or prehistoric feature, or of any other public property of any kind, is prohibited..."

Whew! Ms. Millay, who touched a hundred flowers, would certainly have attracted watchful rangers in a national park.

At first blush, the rule might sound harsh. But the national parks protect the natural treasures and historical heritage of our country. They are often called the "crown jewels", and they represent unique, one-of-a-kind phenomena.

Only exotic species (those brought in by man) are considered second class citizens. For example, NPS gave the nod to the native plant species of the Chihuahuan Desert at White Sands National Monument when they were accosted by a massive, ravenous African intruder, the oryx. These 400-pound antelope were fenced out of the monument earlier this year.

And at Bandelier National

(continued)

Monument, the feral burro was eliminated in recent years to stop soil erosion that was playing havoc with the flora, and, ultimately, the health of the whole ecosystem.

But aside from the exotics, there is no effort to stack the deck in favor of any species. In national parks, all enjoy equal rank, from mule deer to deervetch, mountain lions to pussytoes, mallard flocks to spreading phlox.

That's a big plus for wildflowers who compete well when they are not plowed under to provide fodder for species that man prizes more, or dug up for backyard planters. You don't cut Christmas trees in parks, nor do you pick up dead wood. The Biblical "dust to dust" principle applies, and it's a system that works well.

Besides getting an even break from man in the parks, wildflowers get equal billing from NPS management. There's scarcely a park that doesn't have nature trails showcasing the typical flora and park interpreters are usually well-versed on wildflowers, proudly demonstrating

their knowledge at campfire talks or on trail walks.

The result is that people go to parks to see wildflowers as much as they go to see large mammals, big trees, geysers, caves, lava flows, bat flights or any other phenomenon for which parks are so famous.

And that's as it should be. Along with Ms. Millay, here's a vote for gilia and verbena, prairie coneflowers and asters, paintbrush and penstemon, blue flax, loco weed, columbines and cholla. Throw in a tiger swallowtail, a broad-tailed hummingbird or a scent of creosotebush on the desert wind and you have natural beauty at its zenith.

Editor's note: Mr. Moffett is a Public Affairs Officer for the National Park Service. He suggests that to get permission for field trips or to obtain information on a park's flora that you write the superintendent of the park and tell him what you have in mind. You can also ask for the park's plant list and any other information on native flora.

Congratulations, author Jean Dodd, on the full page story in Alamogordo Daily News about an Otero Chapter field trip, complete with description of plants seen along the way.


Thank you to all contributors to the silent auction, all who helped with the state meeting and especially a thank you to all who braved our southern New Mexico heat to attend the state meeting. It was again proven to me that no finer group of people can be found than in the NPSNM.

"Hasta la vista a Las Cruces."

Tom Wootten

Jim Lewis will be teaching the course, "Gardening Without Work-- Wild Gardens" on Wednesdays, August 28 to October 16. 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 381-7423.

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Key to Tribes of Asteraceae

By Sandra Anderson

This simple key works most of the time for New Mexico species, and most of the characters can be checked in the field with a hand lens.

- 1. Sap milky, all flowers ligulate.....Cichoreae
- 1. Sap watery, some flowers not ligulate.
 - 2. Anthers free.....Ambrosineae
 - 2. Anthers connate.
 - 3. Bilabiate flowers present.....Mutiseae
 - 3. Bilabiate flowers absent.
 - 4. Involucral bracts prickly.....Cynareae
 - 4. Involucral bracts not prickly.
 - 5. Involucral bracts scarious.
 - 6. Plants generally not aromatic, pappus of bristles or absent, anthers caudate.....Inuleae
 - 6. Plants aromatic, pappus of scales or absent, anthers not caudate.....Anthemideae
 - 5. Involucral bracts not scarious.
 - 6. Flowers all tubular, perfect, not yellow.
 - 7. Style branches clavate or knobbed, stigmatic their entire length.....Eupatorieae
 - 7. Style branches linear, stigmatic only on proximal half.....Vernonieae
 - 6. Some flowers not tubular or not perfect or yellow.
 - 7. Receptacle chaffy.
 - 8. Each disk achene subtended by a chaffy bract.....Heliantheae
 - 8. Each ray achene enfolded by an involucral bract; chaff in a circle betewwn disk and ray flowers.....Madieae
 - 7. Receptacle not chaffy.
 - 8. Style branches flattened, each with a hairy triangular appendage.....Asteraea
 - 8. Not as above.
 - 9. Pappus of copious capillary bristles..Senecioneae
 - 9. Pappus of scales or awns or absent....Helenieae

- Cichoreae--chicory, dandelion
- Ambrosineae--ragweed, cockleburr
- Mutiseae--desert holly
- Cynareae--thistle, bachelor's button
- Inuleae--everlasting
- Anthemideae--dog fennel, sagebrush, yarrow
- Eupatorieae--Joe-Pye-weed, brickelbush
- Vernonieae--ironweed
- Heliantheae--sunflower, Mexican hat, tarbush, beggartick
- Madieae--tarweed. tidy tips
- Astereae--aster, goldenrod, snakeweed, fleabane
- Senecioneae--Senecio, old man, groundsel
- Helenieae--desert marigold, paper flower, Indian blanket

Editor's note: This is a copy of the body of a letter received by Ted Hodoba from Grady Stem, Landscape Architect with the State Highway Department, Santa Fe.

We appreciate the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's concern for our native wildflowers and mowing practices which directly affect them. These practices also have an impact on the other native vegetation we use in our "Range" approach for reclaiming and maintaining our highway right-of-way. It is our philosophy and practice to revegetate disturbed areas with grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees and wildflowers indigenous or adaptive to the area.

Our mowing policy has been designed to primarily provide a safety recovery and emergency parking area of approximately 15 feet adjacent to the roadway. Further, mowing should not be done until vegetation in this area is from 18"-24" in height and then vegetation is to be mowed no lower than 6" above the ground. We feel that this mowing height provides for a safety zone and will not be detrimental to establishment of the climax native vegetation.

This matter has been brought to the attention of the District Highway Maintenance Engineer who is responsible for mowing along the section of I-25 between Belen and the Socorro County Line, he can be reached at the following address and phone number.

Andy Martinez, District 6 Maintenance Engineer
P.O. Box G
Milan, New Mexico 87021
(505) 285-6623

He should be able to answer any further questions regarding mowing in this area or if you have any further questions regarding our revegetation or vegetation program please contact me.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Phone No. _____

Other interested family members _____

Please enclose your check payable to

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___ Membership drive
___ Other (please specify)

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.)?

Chapter Reports, continued

a good place to go if you are thinking about landscaping just to see how different the same plant can look. We also saw a patch of green threads (Thelspania megapotamicum) which has tall slender green stems 30cm-1m topped with yellow flowers (no petals). Frances Szeman says they are very good for making dyes.

Our trip to Arabella on July 28 was indeed unusual. Everyone had such a good time seeing what was left of the old homes near Arabella and admiring the Standhardt home and grounds that very little time was spent looking at native plants. Arabella is

nestled at the foot of the eastern end of the Capitan Mountains. The tallest peak behind the Standhardt home is 10,083' elevation. Edith Standhardt and daughter Ann had recently completed a large rock-lined spring-fed pond complete with aquatic plants and large gold fish. The first water lily blossom had opened. Inside the house, Ann indulged us by playing the harpsichord which had been hand made by her father. Another interest of the family showed up in an extensive rock collection. Our thanks to the Standhardts for a terrific day!

Jean Dodd

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