



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

September/October 1988

Vol. XII No. 5



Peloncillo Trip



NPS-NM Annual Meeting

Please remember the Peloncillo Trip October 28, 29 and 30. The group will meet at the store in Animas at the intersection of Hwys. 9 and 338 at 10:30 a.m.

The Peloncillo area is a unique ecosystem within New Mexico. Flora and Fauna are very much a part of the Mexican ecosystems. The U.S. Wildlife Service's much covented Gray Ranch is in this area.

This would be a great opportunity for plant and animal enthusiasts to visit a truly unusual area of our state.

Remember: The Peloncillo area is wilderness; no stores, gas stations, no campgrounds. Everyone must bring their own food, water, camping supplies and remember to fill the auto's gas tank.

For last minute details about the trip contact Jean Dodd (see the Otero Chapter Contact elsewhere in this newsletter).

October 1 and 2 the NPS-NM will have its annual meeting and get-together at Bear Mountain Guest Ranch outside of Silver City. Owner Myra McCormick, an NPS-NM member and supporter, will be our host.

Bear Mountain Guest Ranch offers something for everyone. The area is rich historically as well as alive with a rich assortment of wildflowers and birds.

This will also be the first opportunity we will have of meeting the new Silver City chapter members.

For more information about accommodations and room rates, contact Myra McCormick at 538-2538. BE CERTAIN TO MENTION YOU ARE A MEMBER OF NPS-NM AND ARE COMING FOR THE SPECIAL GET-TOGETHER!!



TIME FOR NOMINATIONS

Positions available are:

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary

Send nominations to:

NPS-NM Nominations
c/o Box 142
Portales, NM 88130

Welcome New Members

Albuquerque

Chris Conley
Susan Homer
Susan McLendon and Rick Hudson
Nature's Way Wholesale Greenhouse
Barb and Hunter Ten Broeck

Las Cruces

Heather Bryant
Norma Hopkins
Darrell T. Sullivan

Otero

Jess Jackson

Santa Fe

Anna Marie Clifton
Pat and Mack Graves
Ann Mehaffy

Out of State

Charles and Joan Maynard,
Madison, Wisc.

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Center is sponsoring the Third Symposium on resources of the Chihuahuan Desert Region at Sul Ross State University on November 10-12, 1988. Theme for the event is "Desertification and Resource Depletion in the Chihuahuan Desert Region: Past, Present and Future." The program will include an impressive roster of scientists and consist of 43 individual presentation. For more information please contact CDRI at 915-837-8370. from El Paso Native Plant Society's newsletter, August, 1988



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CHAPTER CONTACTS

Albuquerque: Walter Graf, 4735 W. Lea SW, 87105,
(877-6469)

Las Cruces: Melanie Florence, R.T. 1 Box 711,
Las Mesa, 88044, (525-3529)

Otero County: Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd.,
Alamogordo, 88310, (434-3041)

Santa Fe: Mimi Hubby, 525 Camino Cabra, Santa Fe, 87501,
(983-1658)

Silver City: Beck Smith, (538-5350)

OFFICERS NPS-NM

President: Lisa Johnston, P.O. Box 142, Portales, 88130
Membership Chairman: Jean Heflin, 443 Live Oak Loop NE,
Albuquerque, 87112

Editor: Susan Wachter, 2500 Norment Rd. SW, Albuquerque,
87105

Vice President: Tom Wooten

Recording Secretary: Dovie Thomas

Treasurer: Jean Dodd

Board of Directors: Bob Reeves, Mimi Hubby

Conservation Chairman: Ted Hodoba

Xeriscape Conference Recap

The first Xeriscape conference in New Mexico was held in Los Alamos August 18 and 19. Xeriscape is a fancy work to denote water conservation through creative landscaping. The "xeri" is derived from the greek work "xeros" for dry. It was humorous to listen to so many people, speakers and well as members of the audience refer to the program as the ZEROSCAPE conference.

The Xeriscape program began in Denver in 1981 when the realization that a growing population would soon exceed the community's water capability. The xeriscape program is not a doom and gloom program of water rationing. Instead it is an intelligent alternative to water wasteful landscaping. The xeric principles encompass the seven principle steps-all sound horticultural steps-

1. Plan the landscape, a good design is most important. By grouping plants together of like soil, water and sun needs you can still create a beautiful landscape and use water wisely
2. Prepare the soil well. This is unfortunately the most often eliminated step in landscaping. Even native plants would appreciate soil amendments if nothing more than increasing the soil air ration before sowing the seed. Drainage and water retention must also be considered beforehand.
3. Limit turf areas to functional areas. Lawns need not be eliminated from all landscapes, but consideration should be given to just how much lawn is really required.
4. Use lower water using plants. Remember, all native plants are not drought tolerant and all nursery-exotic plants are not water hogs. Learn the difference.
5. Use mulches to minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth and slow erosion.
6. Irrigate efficiently. Certain areas will require water less

often than others. Select the most efficient water delivery system your pocketbook can afford. A thumb over the end of the hose is the least efficient.

7. Maintain the landscape properly. Well tended plants free from stress and competition from weeds, bugs and fertilizer misuse will use less water.

Native plants in landscapes were well represented. Slowly people are coming to realize native plants are not ugly-in fact many are quite beautiful. Not surprisingly the most sought after handouts were the plant lists. People just can't get enough information on native and drought resistant plants.....nursery industry people please take note.

Approximately 90 people attended the Xeriscape meeting in Los Alamos. Joni Vachon and her staff did a fine job in hosting the program.

We hope this is develops into a strong interest in wise water use the landscapes for New Mexico.

Along the same line.....

A new group has been formed to promote the use of drought resistant native plants and other introduced drought resistant species for use in landscaping public, commercial and public areas in the Albuquerque area.

The group was begun as a result of a plan to landscape a new park near the petrogyphs in turfgrasses, all but eliminating the existing native plants. Unfortunately poor coordination between the city, neighborhood association and unincorporated areas resulted in this disaster. Also to be taken into account was the influence of sports enthusiasts whose voice was louder and much earlier than the native plant enthusiasts. We can learn from these losses. If you want your municipality to work with native plants, you must have a strong, unified voice and make your opinions known early in the design processes.

If you would like to know more about this group promoting native plant use, please call 897-2952. Hopefully we will be able to keep you abreast of their progress.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero

Three Rivers Campground Field Trip

June seems to be a good month to explore and admire Three Rivers Campground and the nearby trails in the Lincoln National Forest even though we were in the midst of a drought this year-rain started that afternoon. Flowers were mainly between the turnoff from Highway 54 and the campground. We saw a third kind of *Dyssodia* for the first time-just one large patch and then only one more. Desert marigold, blazing star, pale trumpets, *Peganum harmala* of the Caltrop family, chocolate flowers, *Zinnia grandiflora*, green thread-*Theloseperma megapotamicum*, and sting *Cevallis* were sighted along the roadside. A gorgeous display of bird of paradise was followed by lots of cholla in bloom. Along the trails higher up were patches of squaw root. Prickly pear and beautiful Apache Plume were in bloom. Three Rivers is unusual in the desert since it has water. A rushing stream falls over rocks on its way down the mountain. There are also enormous boulders scattered nearby. Trees and shrubs are thick.

Monument Canyon Field Trip

Monument Canyon is on the Holcomb Ranch near Timberon, an isolated mountain land development village in the Sacramento Mountains. Mrs. Holcomb's daughter and her family were very thoughtful and helpful hosts for our trip there July 30. She said probably there were more people there, 54 or more, than ever had been on the ranch at one time. We could not miss the opportunity to marvel at the natural wonders of the ranch which is usually closed.

The scenery both along the road and at the ranch was a wonder. Mountains and meadows were lush and green, full of flowers. One of the

most plentiful plants at this time of year is the white ragweed, *Hymenopapus newberri*, which is an excellent background for the colors of other flowers. We saw one short penstemon about 4" tall, nearly all flowers, whose color was a definite, outstanding pink. Anyone know it? There was only one.

The path we followed led along a flowing stream so much of the time we were around a very wet environment. Some of the blooming plants were Bouncing Bet, cinquefoil both red and yellow, *Hedeoma*, green *Macromeria*, Mexican champion, red *gilia*, dayflowers, horsemint, mountain spray, mullein, mock orange, nodding onions, blue-eyed grass, blue bells, white Indian pipes, heal-all, N.M. vervrain, black eyed Susan, fileree, oxalis and yellow evening primrose-Hookeri. A real thrill was had by all when we came across some plump ripe wild raspberries. Since our trip to Santa Fe we even recognized pussytoes.

Thank you Santa Fe for our visit to your chapter. Our advice to all members would be if you can possibly go to a joint meeting of chapters-do. Many members were helpful in so many ways and the food was terrific. The homes were beautiful both inside and out. The scenery was breathtaking and the tour of Santa Fe yards and nurseries inspiring.

August 27 the Otero Chapter went from arid, rocky country at the Caballo Lake campgrounds up into the Black Range of the Gila National Forest via Hillsboro, Kingston and down into the Mimbres Valley through San Lorenzo ending up at City of Rocks near Deming. Lunch stop was just beyond 8,178' Emroy Pass at a lovely rest stop where we saw white violets near a stream and pure, white dayflowers on a hill.

We saw more 4 o'clocks, dayflowers and buckwheats than we had ever seen before and more varieties of each group than we imagined possible.

They grew in all the plant zones we passed. Is there a tiny blue dayflower?

A lovely stand of pale yellow-orange crag lily (Anthericum torreyi Ivey p. 334) was blooming up in the mountains. Passing through Las Cruces the Broom Dalea was covered with blue blossoms as opposed to the purple blossoms of the Dales along I-25 near Socorro and Hwy. 54 to El Paso.

Landscape note: wouldn't it be nice to have masses of the spiderling (Boerhaavia sp.) we saw at Caballo Lake and long the roadsides! They have bright dots of wine-red colored blossoms and are just charming.

Las Cruces

The guest speaker on June 8 was Pat Penfield who discussed medicinal plants. People have been known to use drugs found in plants since early history. Most of our "new" drugs today have been derived from old traditions of using herbs to treat various ailments. For example, ancient Egyptians placed moldy bread on soldiers wounds (penicillin), Greeks used Salix alba extracts to treat gout and relieve pain (aspirin) and Indian snakeroot was chewed by American Indians to reduce tensions, aid tranquility and alleviate mental depression (contain reserpine).

By the 19th century, the past knowledge of plants used for medical treatment was ignored and "science" was emphasized. There were several reasons for this: 1) the recognition of microbes and a new understanding of the way diseases progressed, 2) past recordings of plant use were not scientifically tested, 3) a movement to using more exact, isolated chemicals to regulate concentration of medicine. Standardization and synthetic drugs culminated in the 20th century.

Now there is a renewed interest in herbal medicines because: 1) drugs used now often have many side-effects and compounds in the original medicinal plant often ameliorated these side effects, 2) plants may contain other compounds that work with the medicine that are now unknown and a pure compound will not do this, 3) many plants were used together to get

the drug effect and isolated chemicals may not get his effect and 4) there is an increasing appreciation of the natural world. There are many problems now wild places and knowledgeable herbalists disappearing fast but hopefully orthodox and herbal "doctors" may start working together to reverse this trend (like the modern Chinese).

Our July 10 potluck picnic at Broad Canyon was successful thank to the "cool" and cloudy weather. We saw some real nice flowers (Polygala spp.- white and blue flowers, white Petalostemon alba, and Theilospermum megapotamecum--Hopi Tea were the most common). A real treat was seeing several Zephyr Lilies (Zaphranthes longifolia) which only occur within a week after rain and only bloom for a day. Most of the area was dominated by shrubs and one Algerita (Berberis haematocarpa) was very large-- approximately 10" in diameter.

Our July 13 meeting featured Scott Florence from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) who discussed the BLM's role in managing rare and endangered plants. Basically, two acts (the Endangered Species Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act) govern BLM management of threatened, endangered and rare species. Each state has its own BLM manual sections addressing its particular situation. Before writing plans covering a particular BLM administered area, an inventory for known threatened and endangered plants is performed and plant locations are mapped. When writing the plan, these species are taken into consternation then the on-the-ground measures are written into the plan to protect or improve the habitat of these species (such measures include designating an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, putting restriction on or prohibiting certain activities such as mining, etc., or physically protecting known populations with fencing, etc.). The goal in managing federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals is to get them off the list-- which means increasing or protecting the populations to the point that they are no longer rare, threatened or endangered.

PLANTS TO LOOK FOR ON THE
PELONCILLO TRIP
OCTOBER 28, 29 AND 30



Arctostaphylos


- Q. grisea-Grey Oak
- Q. hypoleucoides-Silverleaf Oak
- Celtis pallida-Spiny Hackberry
- C. reticulata-Netleaf Hackberry
- Atriplex confertifolia-shad scale saltbush
- Cleome serrulata-Rocky Mountain Bee Plant
- Wislizenia refracta-Jackass clover
- Polanisia trachysperma-Clammy weed
- Platanus wrightii-Arizona sycamore
- Vauquelinia californica-Arizona rosewood
- Acacia greggii-Catclaw acacia
- A. constricta-Whitethorn acacia
- Cassia wislizenii-Wislizenus Senna
- Erythrina flabelliformis-Indian Bean
- Rhynchosia texana-Rosary Bean
- Rhus sempervirens-Evergreen sumac
- Rhus galbra-White sumac
- Microrhamnus ericoides-Javelina Bush
- Peniocereus greggii, night blooming cereus
- Arbutus arizonica-Arizona madrone
- Arctostaphylos pungens-Point leaf manzanita
- Pinus cembroides-Mexican Pinyon
- P. leiophylla var. chihuahuana-Chihuahua Pine
- Yucca virdis-Mormon Tea
- Yucca schottii-Schott yucca
- Agave schottii-Schott Agave
- A. palmesi-Palmer's agava
- Populus augustifolia-Narrow leaf cottonwood
- Juglans major-Arizona Black Walnut
- Quercus reticulata-Netleaf oak
- A. arizonica-Arizona White Oak

Did you know.....

Jean Heflin, our NPS membership chairman has been writing a short newsletter on gardening with native and drought resistant plants for residents of the Sandia Heights area? Hopefully soon, with the help of other NPS members in the area, a seed exchange will begin.

Dan Scurlock, NPS member and intrepid tour leader has yet more botanical, historical and archeological tours on order. September 24 and 25th will be a tour to the three oldest trading posts on the Navajo Reservation; Crystal, Hubbell and Thunderbird trading posts. Reservation and payment for the tours are required in advance. For more information, contact Dan Scurlock at 242-1635. (Dan's tours are not part of NPS-NM activities.)

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COMMON SENSE IN PLANT PLACEMENT

We are all guilty of placing plants too closely together in the landscape. Over time we learn just how big those little critters can become. While these are no way a hard and fast rules, they may keep you from making a mistake.

Do some investigation before planting. Either observe mature plants in nature or consult books before assuming those little plants will remain small.

Irrigation-even drip-may make those plants grow faster than expected and perhaps bigger than expected.

Shrubs and round-headed trees grow about as wide as they grow tall. Often you can subtract about 10-15% off the height when figuring spread, but don't think an 8' shrubs will only be 4' wide.

Low plants often spread than expected. Trees should be place well away from the house. Large shade trees should be at least 20' from the house and the shallow rooted trees even further.

Large shade trees should be at least 50' from one another. Medium trees should be about 35' from one another and small trees 15-20' apart. Small trees should be no closer than 8' from the house.

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH



Guided Tours :

Wildflowers, Birds,

Ghost Towns

Myra McCormick (505) 538-2538

Silver City, N.M. 88061



GREY WATER USE INFORMATION

From HortIdeas, July, 1988...
A 26 page booklet by Robert Kourik (The Edible Landscape) includes information on how to use gray water (household water) in the landscape, how to do, what to avoid. Not since the California water rations of the 70's and early 80's have we seen info on gray water use. Gray water helps further our wise water use in the environment. For a copy of Gray Water Use in the Landscape: How to Use Gray Water to Save Your Landscape During Droughts, send an check for \$6.00 payable to Robert Kourik, Edible Productions (P.O. Box 1841, Santa Rosa, CA 95402).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Other Interested family members:

Please enclose your check payable to:

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
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Annual Dues:

___ Individual & Family \$8.00
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Please send a gift membership and card to:

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

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___ Newsletter ___ Youth projects
___ Organize new chapter
___ 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.)?



CALENDAR



Las Cruces

- October 9 White Sands Fieldtrip
8:00 a.m. For more info call 522-4434 or 522-8068
- October 12 Meeting at 7:30 p.m. NMSU Ag Bldg. Rm. 190
- November Pot Luck Dinner, plans to be announced or call above telephone numbers

Albuquerque

- October 5 7:30 p.m. Museum of Albuquerque on Mountain Rd. in Old Town
- November 2 7:30 p.m. Museum of Albuquerque on Mountain Rd. in Old Town
- December 7 Pot Luck?
For more information contact either Walter Graf at 877-6469 or Francis Szeman at 344-8201


Otero

- September 25 Aguirre Springs-meet at picnic area 10:00 a.m.
- October 27-29 Peloncillo Trip
- November 12 Business meeting and pot luck at home of Frank and Shirley Trezise. Noon.

Santa Fe

- September 21 7:30 p.m. St. John's College, meeting with R. DeWitt Ivey on native plants, slides included
- October and November meeting and fieldtrip information not available. Contact Mimi Hubby at 983-1658 for information.

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