



NEWSLETTER

September / October 1990

VOLUME XV NUMBER 5

CALENDAR

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Sept. 6, Thur., 7:30 - Evening with New Mexico Wildflowers - Ted Hodoba

Oct. 4, Thur., 7:30 - Botanists of New Mexico - Carol Dodson

All meetings held at Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE
(1 block west of Eubank)

GILA CHAPTER

Sept. 27, Thur., Plants in Southern Arizona - Marian Zimmerman
Charter House (101 N. Cooper Street)

Sept. 30, Sun., 9 am - Railroad Canyon to view Aspen in fall colors -
Leader: Jay Hammel

Oct. 20, Sat., 9 am - Cottonwood Canyon to view petroglyphs
Leader: Ron Flemke (538-3498)

Oct. 25, Thur., Seeds: Planting demonstration and seed exchange

LAS CRUCES CHAPTER

Sept. 9, Sun., 9 am - Day trip to Kilbourne Hole

Sept. 12, Wed., - Plant Ecological Research, Hawaiian Islands -
Dr. Laura Huenneke

Oct. 7, Sun., 8 am - Day trip to Sierra Blanca

Oct. 10, Wed., - What is a Fruit? - Sandy Anderson

Field trips leave from NMSU Pan Am Center north parking lot.
Program meetings - 7:30 pm, Room 190 Thomas Hall, NMSU

OTERO CHAPTER

Sept. 14, 15, 16 - NPS State Meeting Host Chapter

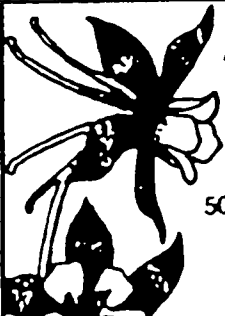
Oct. 12, 13, 14 - Chiricahuas with Paul Gordon

SANTA FE CHAPTER

Sept. 19, Wed., 7:30 pm - "Conservation and Recycling" - Carolyn Keskulla

Oct. 17, Wed., 7:30 pm - "Soil Problems" - Susan Wachter from Albuquerque,
a Landscape Designer with native plants.


(Program meetings held in St. John's College, Laboratory Bldg., Rm 122
on third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)



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MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE STATE MEETING SEPT. 14,15,16

ALAMOGORDO

Holiday Inn-1401 South White Sands Blvd. Site of meeting Sat.
437-7100 night and meeting in parking lot for trip Sun. morning

Group rate if 20 or more stay there. Single-\$38, Double \$46, Triple \$54,
Quad-\$62.

MOTEL 6-right next to Holiday Inn-can walk over for breakfast
251 Panorama Blvd. 434-5970. \$21.95 per person-\$6 per person
after the first one in the room. Discount for more in room.

White Sands Inn-West side of highway slightly north of above two
motels. 1020 South White Sands 434-4200 or 800-255-5061/
1 person \$36, 2-\$40 (1 bed), 2-2beds \$42, 1-King \$41, 2-King \$44,
3-4-2 beds \$47.

ECONO LODGE-East side of highway slightly north of first 2.
1-800-446-6900 or 437-5090. 1 or 2-1 bed-\$35, 2 beds-\$40 & \$5 each
for more than 2 in room, King size bed for 1 or 2 is \$40.

North end of town

BIG 8-3204 N. White Sands 434-4205. 1 person 1 bed \$26.88, 2-1 Bed \$32.88,
2 people 2 bed-\$34.88, 3-2 beds \$36.88, 4-2 beds-\$40.88

SATELLITE INN-437-8454 at 2224 N. White Sands Blvd. 1 person, 1 bed \$28,
2 people-1 bed-\$30, 2 double beds \$34. They have 3 rooms with 3 double
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All prices are plus tax. Food is served only in the Holiday Inn.

KOA Campgrounds-412 24th Street (look for sign on highway) 437-3003

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VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH
(A member's opinion)

Recently a cattle grower who leases public lands requested permission to improve a "way" across a designated wilderness study area to enable the construction of improvements on a parcel of land owned by the New Mexico Land Trust. The affected area is the West Potrillo Mountains WSA, an area managed by the Mimbres Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management. Although it certainly was not our preference, the BLM did give permission for the improvements with restrictions that the "way" must be rehabilitated when the construction was complete and did limit the amount of time available to the lessee for completion of activities. The BLM decision has been appealed by the cattle grower. The Las Cruces Chapter of The Native Plant Society of New Mexico has written in support of the decision of the BLM.

This same lessee, two years ago, was responsible for a back hoe that "inadvertantly" moved onto the WSA and in the name of road repair, scooped out a number of areas. The BLM censured him and gave instructions for rehabilitation, even providing seeds. The seeds sat on the man's porch until finally a group of local volunteers rehabilitated the areas.

On a neighboring allotment, which includes a Research Natural Area, the lessee appealed a BLM decision to not increase the number of livestock permitted. An internal ruling forced the local BLM office to grant the request, but now the lessee has appealed the mechanics of granting her wishes.

Two members of the Las Cruces Chapter, at BLM's invitation, but to the consternation of some from the ranching community, are now involved in meetings trying to develop a plan that will provide some protection to a candidate for endangered species status. The plant, globally, is found only in an area close to Del City,

Texas and this area has been nominated for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by both our chapter and The Nature Conservancy. Four all-day meetings have already been held, each involving approximately twelve people, and at least one more has been scheduled. The meetings are being held to try and find compatibility between grazing and plant protection. Expensive, you bet.

Consider examples such as this, as well as, issues such as spending \$16.00 per acre of public money to herbicide an area in the name of range improvement, etc., not to mention degradation of publicly owned riparian areas and rangelands by grazing livestock. It is easy to understand why some are saying:

"No more moo, in '92"

Tom Wootten

THE BEAUTIFUL BEARDTONGUES
OF NEW MEXICO,
A Field Guide to New Mexico

Penstemons is just off the press and is a little gem that everyone interested in wildflowers should have. Forty-seven species and subspecies are covered with line drawings of the plant, flower, anthers and stamen by Erma Pilz and descriptions in clear, easy-to-understand language and a wonderful diagram of leaf shapes by Jean Heflin.

Erma has been working on the drawings for many years and the collaboration to put the book together has taken more than a year and a half, with many field trips all over New Mexico, and the result is well worth the effort. You will never again have to say, "Oh, its one of those penstemons," but will be able to say which one with this excellent publication.

It will be available at the State Meeting in Alamogordo or you can order your copy from Jack Rabbit Press, 443 Live Oak Loop, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122 for \$6.00 including tax and mailing cost.

Ellen Wilde

CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero

On 6/30/90 Otero took a trip up La Luz Canyon led by Paul and Grace Gordon and their two handsome, energetic, young grandsons. In spite of unprecedented heat and drought for some time before the trip, the Whitethorn acacia and the Apache Plume were blooming at the lower end of the canyon along with some dusty roadside wildflowers. As we went further up the canyon places actually looked lush. From one stop to another Paul and Charley Pase, too, told us about the growth distribution of the plants we were seeing, as well as, the change as the altitude increased.

Blooming trees and shrubs were Mountain Spray (*Holodiscus dumosus*), N.M. Locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), and Elderberry (*Sambucus*). The Mt. Mahogany is covered with its spirally twisted tails not yet covered with fuzz, at least if you are driving down a very steep mountain road they are not apparent. Both orange and pink milkweed, blue-purple and red penstemon, paperflower, buckwheat, chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*), orange wallflower, Jacob's Ladder, bedstraw, and white dalea plus the clematis *ligusticifolia* were all in bloom.

Although some went further, the trip officially ended at Bagwells which is a combination fish farm (trout), orchard (cherries this time of the year), tree farm, and a source of spring water.

On July 27 DeWitt Ivey took us through his new composite key, "DYC"s and Other Composites of N.M.". He and his wife Vivian had collected enough of one of the yellow composites for each member of the audience to follow as he went through the key with the flower explaining all the way. His many sketches help immensely. Color slides illustrated the types of composites covered in the key plus some extra slides of plants

he had seen when he went out with Paul Gordon the week before on a scouting trip to determine our route on the field trip.

The Sacramentos were full of wildflowers following the beginning of the rainy season. On Saturday we looped from Cloudcroft to Cox Canyon over to 82 and then back to Cloudcroft. Saw pink, white, and an unusual pink oxalis that Ivey will key out. First time to see Pinesap-*Monotropa hypopitys*, Ivey p. 161. Saw several neomexicana plants-*Phacelia neomexicana*, Ivey p. 175, and beautiful masses of *Gaura neomexicana* all over the area especially along Highway 244. New Mexico Vervain, *Verbena macdougallii* according to Audubon and Spike *Verbena* according to Ivey p. 291. Saw several different puccoons-*Lithospermum cobrense* and the green puccoon, *Lithospermum viride*, Warnock p. 113, Guadalupes.

Incidentally, if you have Ivey's wonderful book "Flowering Plants of New Mexico", he has said that the plastic in the cover does not do well in the sun -- in other words DO NOT leave it sitting in your vehicle in the sun. If your covers wear out along the plastic binder, you can get them laminated at a copy shop for a small fee and it works very well.

Las Cruces

On Sunday, June 10, six of us left at around 7:15 for the Florida Mountains. We had a beautiful sunny day, and stopped along the road to see thistles, silver leaf nightshade, fleabane, *hymenoxys*, hog potato, threadleaf groundsel, globe mallow, milkweed, and dalea, haplopappus, and *psilostrophe*; most of these were in bloom. We continued on to the Floridas and parked in Spring Canyon. There was a cholla in bloom, but otherwise things were extremely dry. Spotted was mistletoe, juniper, sotol, saltbush, desert oak, Engleman's prickly pear, and

Please note: The roads have been changed since this was written. You can no longer go from the Holiday Inn to Motel 6 on a road beside the hwy. There is a separate exit from the hwy for each motel now so be careful.
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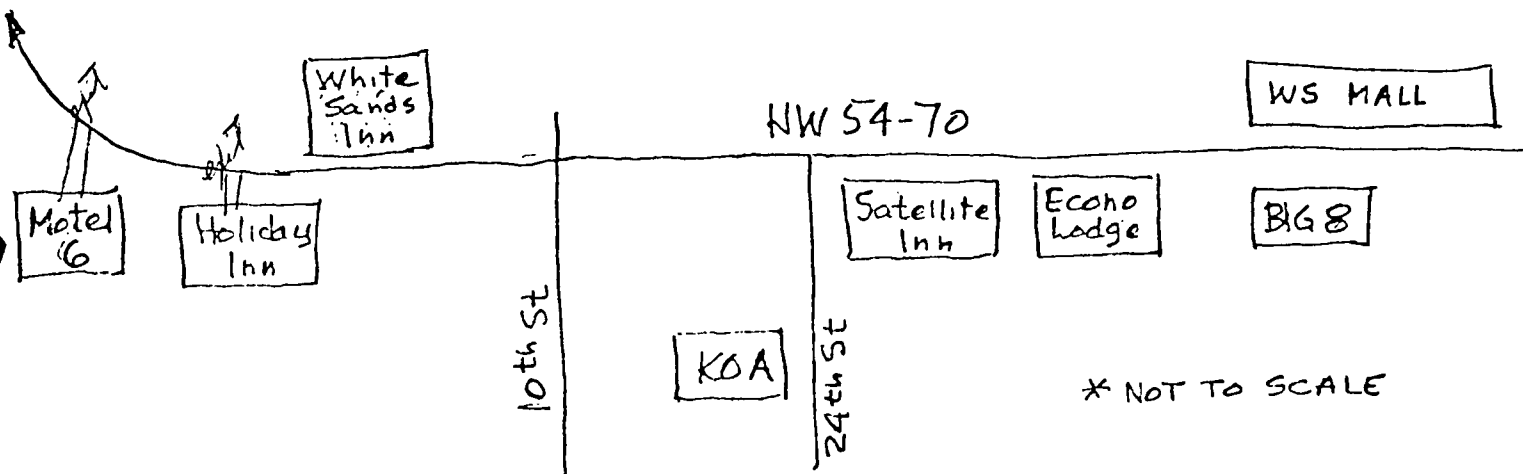
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To El Paso at las Cruces



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO STATE MEETING
Sept. 14,15,16 OTERO COUNTY

Sept. 14-6:30 p.m. Potluck ^{furnished by Otero} at the home of Carol Beckett

DIRECTIONS: The house is south of Tularosa surrounded by hayfields. From the south go past the turnoff to Cloudcroft and LaLuz. As you near Tularosa go into the left lane to turn off the highway at the 50 m.p.h. sign. Go .7 of a mile to a dead end, turn left. Go to sign for Beckett's on your left (just after a trailer park on R) Follow lane to the house. From the north take the first R turn after the village limits. Proceed as in other directions.

Sept. 15-9:00 a.m. FIELD TRIP IN SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS LED BY PAUL GORDON AND CHARLEY PASE. Meet at the parking lot for the Cloudcroft Medical Facility at 9:00 a.m. ^{Bring} WITH A LUNCH (from Alamogordo this takes about 40 minutes)

DIRECTIONS: From Alamogordo go north to the turnoff for Cloudcroft-Hwy 82. Turn R. Follow road to Cloudcroft. Just as you enter the village, the medical facility is on your left.

Sept. 15-late afternoon-Board Meeting-Holiday Inn-Alamogordo
For those of you with free time you might want to visit White Sands National Monument, Oliver Lee State Park, or the Space Hall of Fame. At the end of the park along the west side of the highway is ^{to} a train depot for train buffs or just for fun.

Sept. 15-7:00 p.m.-Holiday Inn-Alamogordo-Opportunity to buy books, etc. From entrance go straight to back-turn L. Argentine and Brazilian rooms on your left.

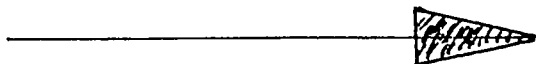
Sept. 15-7:30 p.m. Dr. Richard Spellenberg, author "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers-Western Region" Professor of Biology, New Mexico State University.

Sept. 16-8:00 a.m.-Otero Wildflowers, Native Plants

DIRECTIONS: Carpool south end of Holiday Inn parking lot to visit the grounds of Susan & Michael Shyne south of Alamogordo. We will return to the motel to pick up your vehicles and then proceed to the home of John & Louise Morton of LaLuz. From there on to Cottonwood Canyon 6,300' to the home of Lucille & Toad Wilson. Light lunch before you start for home.

Please RSVP so that we can plan for numbers, especially for the potluck.
Call Shirley Tresize 585-2309 or
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datura. On the return trip we stopped for a group of prickly poppies blooming along the roadside.

On June 13, Dr. Richard Spellenberg presented the meeting program on endangered plants and steps being taken for their preservation. NMSU, he said, needs volunteers to help sort 300 specimens for a herbarium.

Around 7 a.m. on Sunday, July 8, eleven of us met at the Pan Am parking lot, combined forces, and headed for Cloudcroft. What began as a sunny day became rain mixed with hail as we stopped along the roadside in ponchos and under umbrellas to learn about composites, and looked at prickly poppies, Apache plume, yellow primrose, mountain spray, penstemons (purple and orange), guarra, centaurea cyanus, ipomopsis, wild geranium, verbena, cranebill, and blue flax. We also admired the aspens, many dripping with symbiotic lichen. By this time it was raining in earnest, so some cars parked and others headed back down, to picnic in the park at Alamogordo.

At our meeting on July 11, Mike Howard talked about current activities for protection of *Hedeoma Todseii* (Todsens's Pennyroyal). He reported that a colony, unidentified for several months, had been found in the Sacramento Mountains. It is found only on north-facing slopes; the seed production is low, one reason being that the plant is pollinated by hummingbirds and there are not many of them in the Tularosa Basin. Botanists are doing studies on re-introduction into friendly habitats. Bill Dunmire from The Nature Conservancy reported two populations in the White Sands Missile Range. We were encouraged to write our Congressman to help prevent dilution of the endangered Species Act.

Sylvie Peale

Albuquerque

With all the changes in place and time, it was a wonder that anybody even got to our July meeting. Robyn Burnham, Curator of Botany & Paleobotany at the Museum of Natural History was our speaker for the evening. Paleobotany is the study of plants that lived millions of years ago and Robyn wants to find out if it is possible to know what an ancient forest looked like when all you have are the remains of leaf litter. She collects leaves off the forest floor from the Eastern U.S. and the rainforest in the Amazon and it seems, that one can indeed tell what kind of trees make up a forest if you can identify the leaves. A showing of slides from the rainforest with its lush greenery and weird insects concluded an enjoyable evening.

For our August meeting we were back at the Garden Center where we started out a decade ago. Carol Brandt, Ethnobotanist, talked about her studies and fieldwork on the uses of wild and cultivated plants at Zuni Pueblo as they occurred over the centuries. Not surprisingly, the Zunis grew (and still do) a large variety of beans, corn, squash and collected numerous wild plants for use as food, medicine, fibers and dyes. Carol illustrated her talk with an impressive collection of slides, showing breathtaking scenery, ancient ruins and artifacts, and closeups of gorgeous wildflowers.

Walter Graf

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Santa Fe

Chapter had 10 outings over the summer and a very successful Plant Sale in May headed by Gene Loring and a hard working committee.

Summer treats included a strenuous hike to the Lake Peak area lead by Carolyn Keskulla to see wonderful Tundra plants in June, the wood lily blooming several places in July, the Mariposa Lily on Mt. Tsikoma, and the beautiful garden of Larry Deeven in Los Alamos.

Pete Tatschl and Diane McFarlane of the US Forest Service generously gave us a tour of grazing allotments on Rowe (Glorieta) Mesa August 4. Pete has been working with an experimental management technique (Holistic Resource Management) for a number of years on these parcels. He and Diane showed us the work in progress. Pete said, "If I could play God for a day, and change just one thing about the range, I would raise the level of education about it. I would make everyone connected with it understand the importance of managing it for long-term sustainability."

Our first stop was the Barbero enclosure, a plot that has been fenced and ungrazed for about 30 years. We surveyed a portion of the plot for species diversity and general condition, counting both native and introduced species. Outside the fence we surveyed a grazed area for comparison. In the portion we strolled through, there were a similar number of plant species. There seemed to be fewer forbs (stock find forbs highly palatable). Its general condition was about the same, perhaps with less observed erosion.

After lunch we risked lightning and rain to drive to another allotment where Pete and the grazing permittee are implementing Holistic Resource Management. In an attempt to reduce erosion, maximize plant species diversity, improve forage volume and nutritional content, and sustain the general vigour of the range, HRM advocates a unique system of stock rotation. Cattle

graze a given allotment for 2 or 3 days fairly intensely and are then moved to a new pasture in a pattern that completely rests each pasture for between 40 to 90 days, depending on conditions. The general condition of the range we saw seemed better than that inside or outside the Barbero enclosure. It was difficult to tell from a cursory inspection, of course.

The tenets of HRM are as yet unproven. Some studies seem to show that only completely resting the land from grazing is effective in recovering worn-out grasslands and ranges. Pete is quick to emphasize that experiments over time are the only way we can discover the most beneficial techniques. "We have to monitor every day," he says. "And then do what is right for the land." He attempting to manage the range for long-term sustainability rather than short-term profit.

Our warm thanks for a highly informative and fun day with both Pete and Diane.

Laura Baldwin

Gila

On June 23rd eight members spent a cool day in the Mogollon Mountains escaping the summer heat. The drive to Mogollon through the grasslands revealed an abundance of Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) and Desert Willow in full bloom. Heading up through the Spruce-Fir there was Bergamot (*Monarda menthaefolia*), Cut-leaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Franciscan Bluebells (*Mertensia franciscana*), Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria americana*), Wild Rose (*Rosa fendleri*), Western Thimbleberry or Salmonberry (*Rubus deliciosus*), Sneezeweed (*Helenium hoopseii*), New Mexico Checkermallow (*Sidalcea neomexicana*) and Western Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*). We also delighted to the abundance and variety of butterflies at Willow Creek and Great Blue Herons at Snow Lake.

Deb Swetnam

On Sunday, July 22nd eight members made the trek down through the Apache Box Wilderness Study Area. This is an extremely rugged part of Grant County, located about 18 miles south of the Mule Creek metroplex. Due to recent rains there was a fair amount of water flowing in Apache Creek. After following the meandering creek for a couple miles it enters the box part of the canyon. It is an area with 600 - 800 foot vertical walls, and the bottom is littered with room size boulders to scramble over. Some of the more interesting species seen were Pine Needle Penstemon (*Penstemon pinifolius*), Columbine (*Aquilegia tritenata*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), and Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*). Of particular interest was the *Quercus chrysolepis* var. *palmeri*; the Palmer Canyon Live Oak. This particular species of oak is found in New Mexico only in Apache Box and Guadalupe Canyon of extreme southwestern New Mexico. Two of the day's highlights came with the sighting of fauna rather than flora. In the bottom of the canyon we came across two black-tailed rattlesnakes. One was sunning on a boulder and presented a nice photo opportunity. Also sighted were a nesting pair of peregrine falcons that were a delight to watch as they swooped and dove along the canyon walls.

As we were exiting the canyon up a rather steep south-facing slope we found a couple of cacti in bloom which we tentatively identified as *Mammillaria viridiflora*, Pale Fishhook Cactus.

At our June 28th meeting, Bob O'Keefe gave a short talk on Desert Gardening and then distributed a test of general horticultural knowledge for each of us to take. It was a very educational meeting.

At our July meeting, Anita Morton gave a presentation on transplanting native plants. She had many helpful hints and tips and almost everyone went away with a seedling

or transplant of some kind.

Marian Zimmerman also spoke briefly about the care of cacti when moving them.

Ron Flemke

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL REGISTER

Many requests come to the NMNPS during the course of the year asking about business and professional people who are interested in landscaping with native plants, where there are sources of seed, or knowledgeable professionals who can help with various projects concerning our New Mexico native plant heritage. No one of us can be in touch with all the activities of our very talented and enthusiastic membership scattered across our state, even though we do try to "get a line" on our members' interests when they join the Society. We are proposing to start a roster of those members who would be interested in being referred to those people who make requests for information during the year.

The information would be as members supply it to the membership chairman and would be sent to those enquiring with the following proviso:

The New Mexico Native Plant Society supplies this roster as a service to its members. The listings are from information supplied by professional and business members of NMNPS. The NMNPS does not take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied nor does the listing constitute an endorsement by the NMNPS of the firms or individuals listed.

If you want to be included on the NMNPS Business and Professional register please fill out the following form and mail to: Jean Heflin, 443 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Telephone _____

I wish to be listed in the categories checked as follows:

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Artist, other _____ Specialty _____

Writer _____ Specialty _____

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Professional plant materials specialist _____

Land or forest management professional _____

Conservation professional _____

Speaker _____ Topics: _____

Other _____ Specify _____

Brief description of activities, background, and qualifications.



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