

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2017 Annual Conference

The Seed: Past, Present, and Future

Thursday,
 September 14
 to
 Sunday,
 September 17

Native Plant Society

of New Mexico



SMU-in-Taos
 at
 Fort Burgwin
 Taos, NM

Conference Location: The meeting will be held at the campus of SMU-in-Taos on the grounds of historic Fort Burgwin. When entering Taos from Española on NM-68, turn south on US-518 for about 6 miles to the second entrance on the right.

Accommodations: We have arranged for special conference rates at the following hotels, located 7–8 miles from Fort Burgwin, on the south side of Taos. Ask for NM Native Plant Society room block; prices listed are per night and do not include tax. All offer hot breakfasts and Wi-Fi. Hotel reservations should be made *prior to August 14* to ensure conference rates. Cancellation policies differ, so call to inquire. **Sagebrush Inn & Suites**, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/758-2254: \$119–\$149. **Hampton Inn**, 1515 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/737-5700: \$129. **Quality Inn**, 1043 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575/758-2200: \$99, pet-friendly (\$20 extra/night). ❖ Lodging is also available on the **Fort Burgwin** campus, ranging from semi-private rooms to 3-bedroom/2-bath casitas. These accommodations are available for 3-night rentals only. This information will be available on the website for the conference after April 1. Bookings for this housing will be made with the Taos chapter, *not* with SMU-in-Taos/Fort Burgwin, and will be paid for separately from registration. Call Jan, 575/751-0511, or email taosnps@gmail.com with any questions. ❖ **Camping: Taos Valley RV Park & Campground**, 7.5 miles from Fort Burgwin, 120 Estes Es Road 575/758-4469 (<http://taosrv.com>): offers full hookup for \$30–\$34/night, tent camping for \$25 per night. **Orilla Verde Recreation Area** (part of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument), 20 miles west of Fort Burgwin off NM-68: seven campgrounds on the river bank near Pilar, no reservations (first come, first served), \$7/night/vehicle for tents, \$15/night RVs, hookups available. **Agua Piedra Campground**, Carson National Forest, 17 miles south of Fort Burgwin on US-518 at 8,100' elevation: \$16–\$30/night, mix of RV and tent camping in spruce, fir, and aspen forest. Book online: recreation.gov.

2017 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico Taos, New Mexico

Field Trips and Workshops: Directions and meet-up locations will be in your registration packet. Fees for Workshops A and B will be paid with your registration fee. Fees for Workshop C and Field Trip 13 will be paid on-site (cash or check only). *Do remember* to bring plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, snacks, appropriate shoes, hiking poles, lunch on Sunday (unless you plan to leave early), and hand lens (if you have one) for Field Trips 6 and 8. Sunday Field Trips 12–15 are especially good for those traveling towards Santa Fe to return home; 15 (Santa Barbara) will lead you onto the “High Road,” the scenic highway between Taos and Santa Fe.

Thursday, September 14

- 1:30–6:30 pm Check-in/Registration
2:00–5:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting
4:00–5:30 pm **Field Trips for early arrivals**

1. Pot Creek Archaeology

Located across the highway from Fort Burgwin, Pot Creek is the largest prehistoric pueblo north of Santa Fe. Seven hundred years ago it was home to several hundred ancestral Puebloan people. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Mike Adler, director, SMU-in-Taos.

2. Historic Fort Burgwin

Learn the history of this 19th c. cantonment and how it evolved into the education campus it is today. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

Friday, September 15

- 7:30 am–1:30 pm Check-in/Registration
7:30 am–5:00 pm Silent Auction
8:45–9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks—Jan Martenson, Taos chapter president, and co-organizer Mary Adams
9:00–10:00 am Opening Keynote Speaker: Thor Hanson, author of *The Triumph of Seeds*
10:00–10:20 am Break
10:20–11:20 am **Seed Dispersal from Ants to Us: Plant Seed Evolution to Animals and People**
Richard I. Ford, professor emeritus, University of Michigan
11:20 am–12:15 pm **Cotton Domestication in the Prehistoric Southwest**
Glenna Dean, New Mexico State Archaeologist (retired)
12:15–1:15 pm Lunch in Fort Burgwin Dining Hall
1:20–2:00 pm **Close to Home: Seeds of Success in Northern New Mexico** Lillis Urban, BLM, Taos Field Office
2:00–2:30 pm **The Story of the Piñon Pine** John Ubelaker, professor emeritus, SMU
2:30–2:45 pm **A Passion for Piñones** Kate Cisneros, community organizer and storyteller, Questa
2:45–3:15 pm Break
3:15–4:00 pm **More Native Seed Coming to New Mexico! What's New with the Southwest Seed Partnership** Melanie Gisler, Institute of Applied Ecology
5:30–7:00 pm Reception at Millicent Rogers Museum, 1504 Millicent Rogers Road, El Prado
7:00 pm Dinner on your own

Saturday, September 16

8:00 am–Noon **Workshops A, B, C, D and Field Trips 3–8** (registration on a first-come, first-served basis)

A. Creating Monoprints with Seeds

Create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece using native seeds. (The grasses in the conference logo on p. 9 are an example of a monoprint.) Paper, inks, and seeds will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own seeds or flowers (fresh or dried, not too thick, fleshy, or woody). **Location:** Art Barn at Fort Burgwin. **Materials fee:** \$15. **Limit:** 8. **Leader:** Barrie Andrews, MFA.

B. Bookmaking: Creating the "Flower Fold" Book Form

You will create an 8½" book form using two sheets of printed images (see photo, p. 8). We will provide images of seeds and flowers, but participants may bring their own images if desired (drawings, photocopies, or ink-jet printed on ordinary copier paper). In addition, participants who have them should bring Exacto knife, glue stick, metal ruler; however, tools will be provided for those who do not have them. (See a video demonstration of a similar folding form: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpg1BBzf8bQ) **Location:** Art Barn at Fort Burgwin. **Materials fee:** \$15. **Limit:** 8. **Leaders:** Carol Farmer and Jane Farmer, members of the Taos & Santa Fe Book Arts Groups.

C. Sagebrush Distilling

Participate in steam-distillation of freshly harvested *Artemisia tridentata*, yielding both the essential oil and a hydrosol. During the distillation process, you'll learn about the plant's physical characteristics, signatures, herbal uses, local folklore, and history. Participants will take home small samples. (**Note:** Subject to cancellation if we do not have sufficient rains in August.) **Location:** Leader Wendy Whiteman's house. **Limit:** 10. **Materials fee:** \$8, to be paid on-site.

D. Grass Identification

This is a beginner's workshop in identifying native grasses. Basic grass structure will be demonstrated. There will be an easy stroll around the Fort grounds for collection and to gain recognition and identification followed by classroom time. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Chick Keller.

3. Italianos Trail (off the Taos Ski Valley Road)

Cross a mountain stream seven times, hike an old mule trail, learn about plants of the Canadian Zone, and arrive at an aspen grove to review the role of aspen in Spruce-Fir forest. **Difficulty:** Moderate. **Distance:** 2–3 mi. **Elevation:** 8,700–9,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

4. Amole Canyon

Common wildflowers in meadows and a mixed conifer forest. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** 3 mi. **Elevation:** 8,200–8,600'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** David L. Witt.

5. Mi Casita: Visit and Talk "Aldo and Estella Leopold in New Mexico"

Drive to Tres Piedras, northwest of Taos, to visit Mi Casita, the house that Aldo and Estella Leopold built, and learn about their life in the Carson National Forest, Aldo's later conservation concepts, and current restoration activities. Mi Casita is now the home of the New Mexico Leopold Writing Program. A small native plant garden has been created with help from the Taos chapter NPSNM. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Richard Rubin.

6. Mosses on My Mind: Bryophytes for the Beginner

We'll drive to the top of the Taos Ski Valley to the Bavarian Lodge. If you've previously given mosses only a passing glance, you'll learn how to actually see and identify them, all the while engaging in informative conversations. Hand-outs provided. Bring a 10x hand lens if you have one. **Difficulty:** Easy, less than 1 mi. **Elevation:** 10,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leaders:** Kelly Allred and Russ Kleinman.

7. Hunt for Butterflies (and maybe tag Monarchs)

Location to be determined based on local conditions. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** TBD, but less than 2 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Steve Cary, the Butterfly Guy.

8. Seed Collection

Learn how to collect seeds from native plants and which plants are valuable resources for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Collection supplies will be provided. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** Less than 2 mi. **Location:** Carson Forest, specific location based on seed maturation TBD closer to date. **Limit:** 15. **Leaders:** Staff of the Applied Ecology Institute.

Noon–3:45 pm Silent Auction

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in Fort Burgwin Dining Hall

1:30–2:10 pm **The Target Plant Concept: A Southwest Restoration Perspective**

Owen Burney, NMSU/superintendent of the John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center, Mora

2:10–2:50 pm **The Seeds That Feed Us in Taos County** Miguel Santistevan, Taos farmer and educator;
Daniel Martinez, manager, Taos Pueblo's Red Willow Farm

2:50–3:15 pm Break—Final bidding on silent auction

3:15–4:15 pm **Project Baseline, a Time Capsule of Seeds**

Julie Etterson, professor, Univ. of MN–Duluth and director of Project Baseline, a native seed bank

- 4:15–5:00 pm Member Presentations
 5:00–5:30 pm Collect and pay for Silent Auction items
 5:30–7:30 pm Cash Bar and Banquet at the Fort Burgwin Dining Hall
 7:45 pm Wrap up; introduction of speaker, Dr. Larry Torres, professor, UNM-Taos:
Native Plants That Heal—Curanderismo in Northern New Mexico

Sunday, September 17

8:30 am–Noon **Field Trips** (These may run past noon.)

9. Tree Walk Around and History of Fort Burgwin

Dominant and common plants of the Transition Zone will be examined. This zone extends from about 6,000–8,000' and is characterized by several dominant plants and some invasive species. Visit the NPSNM/Taos herbarium housed on the campus. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** Less than 2 mi. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** John Ubelaker.

10. Williams Lake

From the hiker's parking lot in the Taos Ski Valley we will walk through floristically rich areas to a sub-alpine lake set at the base of the majestic slope of Mt. Wheeler, the highest point in New Mexico. Our route includes a small marsh, deep forest, and below-treeline alpine ecosystems. **Difficulty:** Moderate (moderately strenuous for those not used to high elevation). **Distance:** 4 mi. (approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs.) **Elevation:** 10,000–11,000'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** David L. Witt.

11. Range Restoration (optional for the afternoon: **Into Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**—bring lunch)

Meet at Rio Grande Gorge Bridge west side Visitor Center. Bring high-clearance cars. Learn geologic history at bridge, then visit grass and sagebrush steppe ecological sites and 2007 fire with state and transition sites for rehabilitation at Wolf Springs Ranch. For those who can stay on for the afternoon we'll continue into the National Monument, looking at central volcanoes, piñon-juniper burns, and range restoration treatment of sagebrush steppe. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Limit:** Minimum 5, no maximum. **Leaders:** Tony Benson and Martha Brown.

12. UNM-Taos Art & Rio Grande del Norte National Monument Taos Overlook Trail

Stroll through the recently landscaped campus, enhanced with native plants and art installations. We'll then drive a few miles down the road to the Taos Overlook trail. The trail, mostly level, follows an old track through sage, piñon, and juniper, with views over the Rio Pueblo, eventually ending at an overlook view of the Taos Junction Bridge that crosses the Rio Grande, just below the junction of the two rivers. **Difficulty:** Easy, 3–4 mi. **Elevation:** about 6,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Paul Bryan Jones.

13. Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Preserve

Located 30 miles south of Taos (north of Ohkay Owingeh), off Hwy 68, 12-mile long Mesa Prieta contains the greatest number of petroglyphs (estimated to be close to 100,000) in New Mexico, ranging from Archaic through Puebloan through Historic (post-contact 1598). You will be enchanted by the number of animal flute players carved onto the basalt boulders. A \$30 donation to the Project is requested. Website: mesaprietapetroglyphs.org. **Difficulty:** Moderate (short distances, short but steep rocky trails). **Distance:** 1 mi. **Elevation:** 5,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Russell Martenson.

14. La Vista Verde Trail in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

A beautiful short hike that wanders through sage, junipers/piñons, open meadows, and basalt boulders, hugging the edge of a bench with a steep drop off to the Rio Grande. The hike ends at a bench with a wonderful view of the river to the north. You will see petroglyphs and possibly bighorn sheep. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Distance:** 2.5 mi. **Elevation:** 6,300–6,500'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** Carina Short.

15. Santa Barbara Canyon

A 45-minute drive south (Highways 518, 75, 73) takes us to the Rio Santa Barbara and a trail south along its middle fork through meadows to a mixed conifer ecosystem that presents a wealth of flower species to examine. We will likely make our way along a wide trail for 2 miles or so before returning by the same route. **Difficulty:** Easy–moderate. **Distance:** 4 mi. **Elevation:** 8,800–9,800'. **Limit:** 15. **Leader:** TBA.

For additional information, please visit
www.npsnm.org

**The Seed: Past, Present and Future
2017 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee OR register individually and pay online at www.npsnm.org

Name	NPSNM Chapter
Address	City State Zip
E-mail Address	Home Phone *Mobile Phone

**NOTE: Cell phone coverage is spotty. If you want access to Fort Burgwin Wi-Fi we must have your mobile phone number in advance. Your personal password for access (via multiple devices) will be given to you at check-in.*

Included in the conference fee: snacks during meeting breaks, Friday & Saturday lunches, Friday evening reception (appetizers & drinks). Saturday evening banquet with cash bar is additional \$25. *Space is limited for banquet seating, so register early!*

Meals are buffet style with meat and vegetarian choices.

List any special dietary needs _____

Reception & Banquet Beverage Preference: beer wine non-alcoholic

Field Trip/Workshop Preferences (Please register early; space is limited.)

Use letter/number listed in Field Trips/Workshops

Thursday 9/14 (for early arrivals) 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Saturday 9/16 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____

Sunday 9/17 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____

Registration Date	NPSNM Member	Non-Member
Before August 1	\$100	\$115
During August	\$115	\$130
After September 1—no lunches included	\$100	\$115
Saturday banquet with cash bar		
<i>Seating is limited, so purchase early</i>	\$25	\$25
Workshop A or B	\$15	\$15

Workshop D (\$8) and Field Trip 13 fee (\$30) will be paid on-site (cash or check only).

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**Send form(s) with check to Jan Martenson, 73 Vista Linda Road, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557.
Make checks payable to NPSNM/Taos Chapter.**

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM state conference. The Taos chapter invites your donation of items that might be of interest to other members.

For more information or to offer one of your invaluables,
please contact Jan Martenson—

taosnps@gmail.com or call 575/751-0511.

Invitation to Members to Make Presentations at the Annual Conference on Saturday, September 16

In addition to our invited speakers, we have reserved time on Saturday afternoon just for members. The Planning Committee encourages you to submit a proposal for an illustrated talk you would like to present.

Proposal Guidelines

- Talks should be planned to last no longer than 15 minutes.
- Your topic can be anything related to New Mexico native plants.
- Provide a title for your proposed presentation.
- Describe your proposed presentation in a paragraph.
- If you require anything other than standard A-V equipment, let us know.
- Include your
 - name
 - email address
 - telephone number
- Send your proposal by email to: taosnps@gmail.com
- Your proposal should be received by July 15, 2017.

Only three presenters will be selected. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made its decision.



Mi Casita, the house that Aldo and Estella Leopold built northwest of Taos, is the destination of Saturday Field Trip 5, part of the 2017 Annual Conference.

Photo: Mary Adams