

Albuquerque Chapter Report for 2023

Officers and key helpers in 2023

Tom Stewart - President
Carmen Alexander - Vice President and Communications
Sara Keeney - Program Coordinator
Sharon Miles - Field Trip Coordinator
Diane Stevenson - Chapter Newsletter Editor
Dan Benton - Treasurer
Dara Saville - Recording Secretary
Judith Phillips and Lee Regan - Representatives to the State Board
Lee Regan - Book Sales
Carol Conoboy - Outreach Events Coordinator
Pam McBride - Conservation Committee Representative
Membership Coordinator - Ann-Marie Yaroslaski
Publicity - Janet Mura

Public Meetings

All were held at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science and open to the public.

January: The scheduled program was cancelled for medical reasons and rescheduled for May.

February Meeting: Marisa Thompson—Climate Ready Trees, Planting for a Drier Future. Urban trees are a cost-effective, nature-based solution to mitigating climate change and improving the livability in cities and towns. But we need to consider trees that are better adapted or are adaptable to extreme climatic events.

March 1 Meeting: Lu Lu Sage — How Many Species Will One Plant Support? Have we 'forgotten' that we are a part of nature, enmeshed in the web of life? Lu Lu helped us remember again by observing the mysteries and wonderment in the diversity of species that visit our gardens and habitats.

April 5 Meeting: Rewilding at the Candelaria Nature Preserve. Our speaker, Jeannie Allen, leads the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve, about 65 volunteer citizens who support the City's implementation of a Resource Management Plan on the 167 acre open space Candelaria Nature Preserve. She gave us the long view of the transformations ahead.

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May 3 Meeting: Colleen Langan McRoberts--Removing Invasive Plants from our Open Space. (Rescheduled from January, 2023) We learned about Plant Patrol, a City of Albuquerque Open Space volunteer program, created with the intent to establish a community of volunteers that works to actively restore sites by removing invasive plants.

June 7 Meeting: Knowing the Sunflower Family in New Mexico. Dr. Richard Spellenberg, professor emeritus from NMSU, and his wife Naida Zucker explained a new approach for the serious amateur to learn the diverse genera and species of plants in the Asteraceae family - learn to recognize taxonomic tribes.

July 5 Meeting: Getting to know our Area Eriogonum. Lee Regan, active Albuquerque member, provided an entertaining visual survey identifying the growth habits and diversity of Eriogonum (Buckwheat) species close to Albuquerque and our surrounding region.

(August: No meeting—summer break)

September 6 Meeting: The Natural History of Pines. Renee Galeano-Popp, retired National Forest botanist, spoke about "Project Pine Cone", the natural history of our New Mexico pines and the sad story of White pine blister rust. Surely, everyone learned at least something they didn't know before about pine trees.

October 4 Meeting: John Gorey on rare New Mexico Thistles. John, recipient of two Carter Conservation Fund grants, educated us not only about the thistles themselves but their importance to numerous animal species and the overall ecology of their habitats.

November 1 Meeting: Clayton Meredith, topic: Work by NM BioPark Society to Promote Native Plant Survival. Some of us have participated in seed cleaning for collections done through the project. Clay explained the bigger picture, including seed banking and propagation of NM endemic plants, of the conservation efforts underway at the Albuquerque Biopark.

The December meeting, Saturday 12/2, was not public as it is traditionally a potluck lunch for members that includes the membership acceptance of the officers for the year to come. Held at the home of Pam McBride, this year's highlight was a visit by our state co-presidents, Don and Wendy Graves.

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Field Trips

Despite the heat and dryness most of the summer, the Albuquerque chapter organized 23 field trips near the city and around a wide-ranging area of central New Mexico. These were the destinations:

Quebradas Scenic Byway (two visits), Pine Flat/Sabino Canyon (Manzanita Mtns.), Petroglyph National Monument, Tijeras Canyon Open Space, Ojito Wilderness Hoodoo Tr., Three-Gun Spring Trail (Sandias), BLM Penistaja Badlands, Las Huertas Creek (near Placitas), Pajarito Environmental Education Center (Los Alamos), Eureka Mesa (near Cuba, NM), Capilla Peak (Manzano Mts.), Cienega Tr. (Sandias), Sandia Crest Spur Trail, Blue Desert (Jonathan Tanis's residence) plant survey, Zuni Canyon/Quartz Hill, Santa Fe asteroid impact site (Sangre de Christos), El Malpais Nat. Mon. Narrows Rim, Timber Ridge (Magdalena Mts.), Sandia Peak Sulfur Spring/Alamo Canyon (Jemez Mts.), Red Canyon (Manzanos), the Albuquerque City Greenhouse Complex, and NMSU Plan Science Center (Los Lunas).

Sharon Miles was the field trip coordinator, and we thank the following people for organizing and/or leading particular trips: Lee Regan, Lenore Goodell, Kent Condie, Doris Eng, Jonathan Tanis, Tom Stewart, Marissa Thompson, Pam McBride, Carol Conoboy, and Sharon Miles.

Other Activities - Service and Outreach

Petroglyph National Monument tumbleweed removal

- Poole Property (San Antonio Oxbow Bluffs acquisition) botanical survey
- UNM Herbarium keying nights
- Seed cleaning at Biopark for its seed banking project (2 volunteers)
- El Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat, planting and maintenance
- Rio Grande Nature Center, table at the Garden Festival in May
- Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, table at 50th anniversary celebration
- Summer Wings Pollinator Celebration, table at Rio Grande Nature Center
- Zuni Mountains Plant Foray, organized by the UNM Herbarium
- Sandia Ranger District Collaborative meetings
- Produced and posted to the NPSNM website our quarterly chapter Newsletters, thanks to Diane Stevenson.
- Donated \$5000 to the Carter Conservation Fund
- Attended Rare Plants Technical Council Meeting

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