



**NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter**  
Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
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## Annual Chapter Report for 2024

Chapter meetings continue to be held the first Wednesday evenings of the month at the UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Ave NE, Albuquerque. Exceptions this year were an August break and the annual winter holiday potluck and membership meeting in December.

**Presentations** to the public covered a range of educational topics, with some emphasis on the botanical research being conducted by University of New Mexico graduate students, some of whom received grants from the Carter Conservation Fund. These are noted below with an asterisk. Programs are arranged by **Sara Keeney**.

**January 3: Common Mushrooms of Central New Mexico: Dr. Cleveland Sharp**

**Feb 7: The Alpine Flora of New Mexico. Joseph Kleinkopf,\*** PhD candidate

**March 6: Insect Galls of the Southwest, with Quin Baine. \***  
Quin also led us on an unusually early (February) field trip, seeking and learning about common galls in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains.

**April 3: All About the University of New Mexico Herbarium & More. Harpo Faust\*** (Ms. Faust is Collections Manager at the UNM Herbarium.)

**May 1: A Snapshot into the Vascular Flora of the remote Brokeoff Mountains, Otero County, NM. Bryana Olmeda,\*** working toward her masters degree.

**June 5: Pollinators and Plants - Building Mutual Relationships in your Garden. Kaitlin Haase,** Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the Southwest.

**July 3: Our July meeting was something different, a "Movie Night,"** featuring a 1-hour webinar with Doug Tallamy from the Smithsonian

Institution. Dr. Tallamy is an entomology professor at the University of Delaware and a strong proponent of gardening/landscaping with native plants to support invertebrates and other wildlife. The presentation was followed by an informal group discussion.

**September 4: Lenore Goodell, "Native Plants of the Ojito Wilderness Area"**. Lenore is an experienced native plant photographer, explorer and retired cartographer.

**October 2: Garden Prep for Native Plants**, with **Mike Halverson**, manager of the *Santa Ana Native Plant and Tree Nursery*.

**November 6, Reforestation in NM: Getting to Scale. Matthew Hurteau**, Professor of Quantitative Ecology in the Department of Biology at UNM.

**December 14 (Saturday) holiday potluck and membership meeting:** 11:00 a.m. us at the Open Space Visitors Center. Preliminaries included a photo review of the recent plant collecting foray in the Brokeoff and Guadalupe mountains by Lee Regan, followed by our members' acceptance of our slate of officers for 2025 and acceptance of a change in our chapter bylaws. That change was to rename and update the responsibilities of the chapter Membership Secretary to become the Chair of the Membership and Hospitality Committee.

**Public outreach and service activities** in 2024 included the following events. Outreach tabling was coordinated by **Carol Conoboy**, service trips by Tom Stewart.

- Build Your Backyard Refuge Day, March 23 at Valle de Oro NWR
- Spring Garden Festival, May 11 at the Rio Grande Nature Center
- International Migratory Bird Day, May 11 at the Albuquerque Biopark
- Summer Wings Saturday, August 3 Rio Grande Nature Center
- Build Your Backyard Refuge Day, September 21 at Valle de Oro NWR
- Cactus replanting, revegetation of a new trail at Petroglyph National Monument
- Visitor Information Center Garden Rehabilitation at Petroglyph National Monument, coaching and guiding 17 Volunteers for the Outdoors.
- Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat, ongoing care and maintenance with neighborhood volunteers

Field trips were too numerous and varied to list in detail, but included the following highlights. They were coordinated by **Sharon Miles**.

- Early April, traditionally the first first field trip, to the Pine Flat and Sabino Canyon areas of the Manzanita Mountains, Cibola National Forest
- Easy walks for beginners, near or within Albuquerque city limits
- NMSU Agricultural Science Center in Los Lunas
- Two home garden tours
- Santa Fe Canyon Nature Conservancy Preserve
- Coati Pond Outdoor Environmental Classroom, Sandia High School
- And many more customary, more distant trips such as to the Zuni Mountains, Quebradas Scenic Byway, and new areas of the Valles Caldera Preserve

Among other field trip leaders were **Doris Eng, Lee Regan, Sharon Miles, Tom Stewart, Carol Conoboy, Lenore Goodell, Jason Roback, Pam McBride, and Dr. Kent Condie** who educated us in the geology of the areas we visited.

**Three well-illustrated and informative chapter newsletters** were put together by editor **Diane Stevenson**, who has now retired from this position after about ten years of dedicated service. We will also miss **Carmen Alexander** who has moved out of state after two years as chapter Vice President and monthly email announcements communicator.

But our saddest regret was the passing of former and long-time chapter president, **George Miller**, writer of many garden and wildflower ID books and creator of a premium wildflower identification website, now inherited by NPSNM.

Other key officers and volunteers not yet mentioned above included **Dara Saville** as Recording Secretary, **Dan Benton** as Treasurer, **Lee Regan** coordinating book sales, **Pam McBride** our Conservation Committee Representative, and **Dana Loy** our Chapter Representative to the state board.

**We welcome the following officers and key volunteers for 2025:**

- President: Tom Stewart
- Vice President: Colleen McKee
- Field Trip Coordinator: Lee Regan
- Program Coordinator: Sara Keeney, partnering with her successor to be, Yasmeen Najmi
- Secretary: Brandon Moore
- Treasurer: Dan Benton
- Representative to State Board: Sara Keeney
- Membership and Hospitality: Sharon Miles and Candace Stoughton
- Outreach/Tabling Events: Carol Conoboy
- Conservation Issues Coordinator: Pam McBride with her successor apparent Mike Fernandez
- Books: Lee Regan
- Publicity: Janet Mura