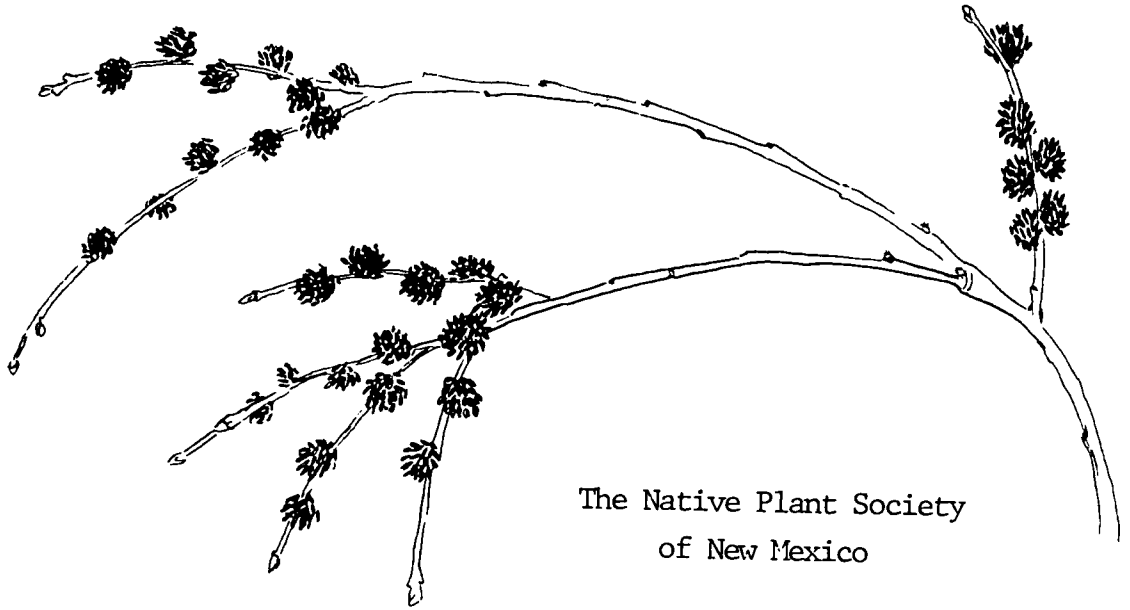


April

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The Native Plant Society  
of New Mexico

Our thanks to Dr. Gambill for coming so far and sharing so much with us. Among the most captivating of his photographs were those of La Mortola in Italy, the rock gardens at Kew and Wisley, and the azaleas and rhododendrons of Winsor Great Park and Bodnant. Among the most lovely of the individual plants shown were the Atlas cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*) in Geneva, the California ceanothus in the English gardens, the blue poppy (*Meconopsis*) of the Himalayas in English gardens, and the arbor of goldenchain trees (*Laburnum*) at Bodnant in Wales.

Dr. Gambill has offered any help he can give toward our starting an arboretum in Santa Fe.

April speaker: Dr Thomas Todsén from Las Cruces will speak on  
Native Orchids of New Mexico

Saturday, April 23rd, 7<sup>30</sup>p.m. at Fellowship Hall, St. John's  
Methodist Church at the corner of Cordova Rd. & Old Pecos Trail  
Please enter on the Old Pecos Trail side.

Field trips: The Native Plant Society field trip will be to the Sacramento Mts., April 30, led by Bob Reeves of the university at Las Cruces. It will be primarily to see cacti in bloom. Contact Betty Ann Milligan, 128 Alamo St., Santa Fe, 983-4440, about arrangements (car pooling, staying over in Las Cruces, etc.).

Anyone wishing to join the N.M. Wildflower Association on their April 16th trip to Pine Flats in search of pasqueflower please call Gail Haggard, 988-2023, after April 12th for the departure time and place.

Sunday, April 17th the N.M. Cactus and Succulent Society will make a field trip to the Manzano Mts., led by Gary Loos. Meet at 10 a.m. at the intersection of highways 6 and 60.

Cactus Show & Sale: The N.M. Cactus and Succulent Society show and sale will be at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas N.E., on May 7th, 3-6 p.m., and May 8th, 10-5. Plants will be on sale throughout the show but on Sunday at 3p.m. will be an auction where many special things may be bid on.

Plant Sales in Arizona: April 9 & 10, 8a.m.-4:30p.m., the University of Arizona Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, near Superior, Arizona. 150+ kinds of cactus & succulents available and 40+ spp. of drought tolerant plants.

April 16, 9a.m.-5p.m., Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. Drought tolerant shrubs, trees, & wildflowers available, as well as cacti and succulents.

April 23, 9a.m.-5p.m., Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Many native desert plants available.

Commemoration: One of the old natives of Santa Fe was commemorated March 23rd - a beautiful century old Cottonwood standing near the corner of Canyon Rd. and Delgado. A plaque was placed on it which reads

Rio Grande Cottonwood

Populus wislizeni

Heritage Tree, Santa Fe

Among those present was Mayor Sam Pick, Noreen Poitras, chairman of the Santa Fe Tree Commission, others members of the Tree Commission, and Ann and Tom Jameson on whose property the tree stands. The Tree Commission will commemorate other fine old trees in the future.

Our Plant Sale: The Native Plant Society's first annual plant sale, the proceeds of which will go toward an arboretum for Santa Fe, is going to be Saturday, May 28th, 9 o'clock on, at the St. John's Methodist's Church parking lot, the corner of Old Pecos Trail and Cordova Rd. Plants from the following categories (the plants will be itemized fully in May's newsletter) will be sold: native herbs, shrubs & trees, house plants, bedding plants, cacti, miniature roses, orchids, anthuriums, seed of native grasses & some native wildflowers, the handbook series of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, plant guides, and a leaflet on natives appropriate for landscaping here. If you can help on the day of the sale or beforehand please contact Rubye Mullins, 988-5427.

ORV Regulations to be Tightened: President Carter is reported planning to amend an executive order issued by President Nixon in 1972 which authorized federal agencies to prohibit the use of off-road-vehicles in those parts of public lands where they threaten the environment. Mr. Carter will require, rather than authorize, the agencies to prohibit the use of motorcycles, snowmobiles, jeeps, dunebuggies and other ORV's in national parks, wilderness areas and other public lands. ORVs are a major destructive force in natural habitats and very damaging to desert plant communities in particular.

The White House has been inundated with letters and telegrams opposing the tightening of the regulations. It seems very desirable to write Mr. Carter praising his intentions and encouraging the restriction of the use of ORVs where they are damaging plant communities and wilderness areas.

-M.S.

In our Library: Bruce MacBryde, senior botanist, Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has sent some documents, now in our library, and we are delighted to lend them. They include the Liaison Conservation Directory for Endangered and Threatened Species, The Federal Register which includes the Department of Interior's list of endangered and threatened species of plants, and a collection of Endangered Species Technical Bulletins, published monthly by the Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife.

Drawings: Kathy Isaacs will draw flowers of trees as they come into bloom this spring. On the front of the newsletter is the not very well beloved Siberian Elm, *Ulmus pumila*. The dark marbles all over these trees since mid-March are clusters (fascicles) of perfect flowers, flowers that contain both male and female parts. The male parts are in evidence first - the filaments with the black anthers holding the pollen. Just now the female parts are becoming visible, pale green structures like cupped hands covered with hairs able to catch pollen. Selfing is prevented by the male parts ripening before the female.

The flowers of the Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, are portrayed on this page. The Silver Maple is an eastern tree, tolerant and fast growing, which is not uncommon in yards and along streets. The flowers are in fascicles and are polygamous, i.e., some flowers have male and female parts, some are unisexual. The female structures are pink to maroon fingers, the male parts, as you can see, dangle out, the anthers atop their longish filaments.

Both these trees flower before they leaf out, and being wind pollinated this helps, for the leaves are not in the way.



Note: Some of last month's newsletters were mailed with an extra page (from an old newsletter) which made no sense - please excuse the error.

N.M. Highway Department & Soil Conservation Service Program: Dick Bremmer is the plant materials specialist for the New Mexico Highway Department. He has worked intensively with the Soil Conservation Service in a nine year program which is just ending of the SCS and the Highway Dept. to collect, evaluate, and release varieties of native plants and appropriate introduced plants for highway use.

Named varieties of a plant are strains taken from a part of the range of that plant, and whose growth parameters have been studied and are known. The named variety is maintained because the ultimate 'consumer' is protected by knowing that the plant will indeed grow and perform within a reasonable standard.

Among the releases of the long-term, joint study are, Bandera Rocky Mountain Penstemon, Paloma Indian Ricegrass, Elvado Spike Muhly, Nogel Black Grama, Arriba Western Wheatgrass, Redondo Arizona Fesque, and 'Pink Lady' Winterberry Euonymus. The releases to be made this spring with the closing of the project and its final reports include, Desert Willow, New Mexico Privet, Three-leaf Sumac, Coral-colored (referring to the berries) Russian Olive, Soaptree Yucca, Common Bladder-nerve, Apacheplume, Rabbitbrush, One-seed Juniper, Galleta grass and Yellow Bluestem.

All of these natives can be seen on highway land.

In the last ten years the Highway Department has reclaimed approximately 30,000 acres with natives and appropriate introductions (as Lehman's Lovegrass). The rugged Four-wing Saltbush was planted along interstate 10 and 25; the shrubs are 2-3 feet high now near La Bajada Hill. 800-1000 acres have been seeded with native wildflowers. On the road to the Taos Ski Basin 80 acres are under Rocky Mountain Penstemon (2-3 plants per yard), on the roadside between Melrose and Clovis there are about 200 acres under Blanketflower, Gaillardia aristata, (sown at 1/3 lb. per acre. These plantings provide a handsome sight and good erosion control.

The joint Highway Dept.-SCS program of plant evaluations has had real outcome. And while men such as Dick Bremmer work in the Highway Department similar programs and increasingly better plantings will be seen. -It should be added that when the report of the tested varieties of woody plants and forbs is published it will be made available to anyone wishing to peruse it.

New Mexico Beautification: Mrs. Parker Kalloch came to Santa Fe March 10th to the Governor's because of her involvement with Arbor Day (March 11, - and Arbor Week, the third week in March, Commemorating the planting

of trees). But what she particularly wanted our Native Plant Society to know about was the Wildflower Seed Project for New Mexico. Starting in 1966 under Gov. Cambell with the Committee to Keep New Mexico Beautiful Mrs Kalloch and the many groups with whom she works began to collect seed of many different wildflowers. The Girl Scouts were prominent in this effort. The Soil Conservation Service cleaned the seed, it was packaged and distributed free at fairs and to interested groups throughout the state. With more experience it was decided to concentrate on the Purple Aster (Aster or Machaeranthera bigelovii), a beautiful wildflower able to grow everywhere in New Mexico. Campers, hikers, everyone is encouraged to harvest and plant seeds.

Mrs. Kalloch was the chairman of the Bicentennial Beautification Committee, is the chairman of the Beautification Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Albuquerque, the vice-chairman of the Albuquerque City Beautification Committee, and the wildflower chairman of the New Mexico Garden Clubs. She also works with youth groups throughout the state, with the SCS, and the Highway Dept. Thousands and thousands of trees have been planted because of her efforts with others. She hopes now that the Wildflower Seed Project will gain momentum. She is not buried in the harrassing paper business of committees, she is a worker interested on results. Individually and as a group we might help. A copy of the sheet printed on the Purple Aster - when and how to gather seed, where to send seed, or requests for seed - is available from the Native Plant Society. For more information, write,

Mrs. Parker C. Kalloch, Jr.  
Wildflower Seed Project  
Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce  
400 Elm N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87102

Motorcycle Race in Proposed N.M. Wilderness: A motorcycle club in Carlsbad has applied for a permit from the Lincoln National Forest to hold an enduro race for 200-400 dirt bikes in the proposed Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness. Forest Supervisor James Abbott says the agency has not yet made a decision, but is seeking public comment.

The Guadalupe Escarpment is an area of deep canyons and long ridges with vegetation ranging from grassland and Chichuahuan desert to a relic forest of Douglas fir and aspen. Possibly the most extensive and beautiful network of caves in the world is found in the area.

Dave Foreman, SW Representative for the Wilderness Society, said the race would set an unfortunate precedent for allowing more races in this area and would destroy a superb wilderness.

The Wilderness Society and other groups have suggested that the race be held instead on the established Nomad Bike Course on nearby BLM land.

Write to James Abbott, Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest, Federal Building, Alamogordo, N.M. 88310 to ask him to deny this race permit; or for additional information contact Dave Foreman, SW Representative, The Wilderness Society, P.O. Box 38, Glenwood, N.M. 88039, (505) 539-2645. -shortened from an article in Wilderness Report March, 1977

Plantings at Santa Fe Schools: E.J. Martinez Elementary School has wanted a nature center for a long time. Betty Graham and others committed to the idea have been using an area outside as a classroom, and now more planning, as well as an inventory of soils and plants, is being carried out by Rick Schroeder of the SCS. The fourth graders, with Kay Simpson, are working on the plot in front of the school. A windbreak of 100 Russian Olives has been given by the State Department of Forestry, and the Native Plant Society will give wildflower seeds for the project. (The students have already collected many different seeds.) Wood chips, for trails, are available free from a lumber mill north of Espanola - would anyone donate a pick-up truck for a day to get a load? Or give other help? Please contact Betty Graham at the school, 982-8321.

We all hope this nature center will be a contagious reality. And indeed some faculty and students of the High School - which needs its campus softened and enriched - starting with the biology building want to plant native flowers, shrubs and trees. Helen Foster, Al Armendariz, Pedro Ortega (head of the grass club), Mrs. Najjar, Rick Schroeder and Eric Haggard are among those involved. Helen Foster can be contacted at the High School, 982-2611.

Two handsome, untrampable pinyons (that the Tree Commission has been thoughtful enough to try to save) could flank the corners of the biology building if \$250 could be raised to move them. They are large, very old trees and would be an impressive stimulus to begin the landscaping of the High School.

Those who want to join, please send  
\$5.00 dues (\$8.00 family) to Claudia Hubbard,  
2079 Camino Lado, Santa Fe.