

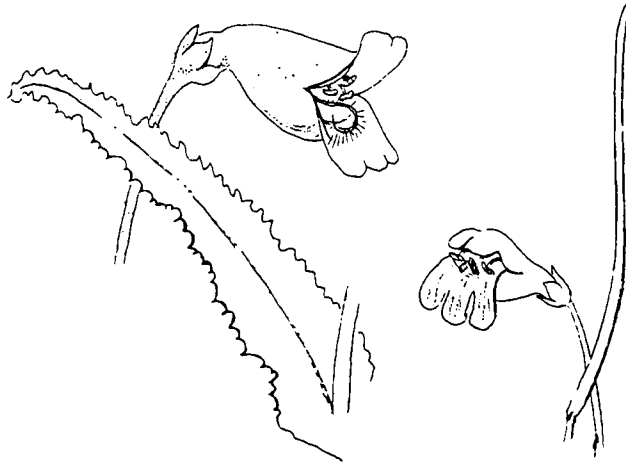
Penstemon palmeri (left)

Leaves often sharply toothed, flowers whitish-pink with purple lines extending from lower lip into corolla.

Penstemon virgatus (right)

Leaves narrow, flowers whitish or pale violet, red-purple lines within corolla.

Drawing by Kathy Isaacs



Native Plant Society of New Mexico
July Newsletter

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At its first summer meeting, the Native Plant Society was treated to a talk and slide show by Professor William C. Martin of the University of New Mexico, who spoke on the subject of the Compositae Family in New Mexico. Members of the Compositae Family make up 60% of the 3,500 species of plants to be found in this state, and can here be divided into two subfamilies and eleven tribes. Professor Martin gave a brief but very useful description of some of the members of this complex family that included descriptive terminology, factors of evolutionary advancement, the geographical distribution of certain tribes and the possibilities for economic use for a few compositae species. We are all very grateful that Professor Martin could come to Santa Fe during one of the hottest days of the year to share his knowledge in an informative and interesting evening.

G.T.

After D. Martin's interesting discussion of the Compositae, the Native Plant Society decided to actively pursue the publication of the New Mexico flora that Dr. Martin has been compiling for 17 years. There has been a notable lack of support from the University of New Mexico and from the UNM Press. Perhaps the best solution is, for New Mexico citizens who recognize the value of a state flora, to develop a broad based, grass roots organization that can pursue the publication of this important botanical work.

We might call the group the New Mexico Flora Fund and solicit financial support from private individuals, foundations, and interested public entities. There are many prominent people who will support this project and we must simply grasp the nettle and form a structure that will get the job done. The cost of publishing the Flora is vague. UNM Press wanted \$35,000, but it is likely that a paper back format might well reduce this cost. At any rate anyone who is interested in being a member of the New Mexico Flora should contact Gail Tierney 983-5001 or Bill Isaacs 988-5579 for details and donations.

We are very fortunate to have as our guest speaker for August, Warren Wagner, who will speak of his work (Master's degree at UNM) on the Animas mountains and its vascular plant flora. Warren is an exceptional botanist, having obtained a number of contracts to study endangered and threatened plants in New Mexico and is writing a handbook of the genus *Atriplex* in New Mexico for the US Forest Service. He has collected thousands of plant specimens in the Animas Mts and has made a number of range extensions, including the only record of Spanish Moss for the state. Warren is continuing his education at the Missouri Botanical Garden under the direction of Dr. Peter Raven, one of the foremost systematic botanists in the US.

We are tentatively setting the date for this talk on the 17th of August at 7:30 PM. We must make arrangements for the location, but will make that decision shortly.

No NPS meeting in July. The plan is to have the August meeting on the 17th of August to coincide with Warren Wagner's talk. Place to be announced.

Field Trip June 18, 1977

Irene Mitchell led the field trip to Los Alamos Canyon on the most explosive day of the Mesa fire. After the fire jumped the highway, rangers asked us to leave the canyon, but we had been fortunate enough to see such plants in splendid bloom as Ninebark (*Physocarpus monogynus*), despite the extreme dryness.

Some of the interesting plants seen are listed here:

<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	Blue-berried Elder
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Twin berry Honey suckle
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Wild Raspberry
<i>Philadelphus microphyllus</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier Dog Wood
<i>Jamesia americana</i>	Cliffbush
<i>Physocarpus monogynus</i>	Ninebark
<i>Penstemon whippleanus</i>	A wine-colored Penstemon
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Service berry
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Indian Hemp/Dogbane
(also saw a white-flowered Dogbane)	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke cherry
<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>	Coralroot Orchid
<i>Habenaria</i> sp.	Bog Orchid
<i>Pteridium</i> sp.	Bracken Fern
<i>Woodsia</i> sp.	Rock Fern

And to keep us on our toes, Nettles, Poison Ivy and (very!) Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

G. H.

Field Trip

Irene Mitchell will be leading a Jemez mountain area field trip on July 16th. Time, 9:00 AM - place, the parking lot of the Los Alamos Inn on Trinity Drive, Los Alamos. Irene hopes that Gunnison's Mariposa, *Calochortus gunnisonii* will be one of the special plants to be seen. Do bring lunch and water canteen.

Notes from the New Mexico Wildflower Association

July Trip

Sierra Blanca, July 16. Meet at 9 a.m. at Ranger Station at Ruidoso. It's between Ruidoso and Alto, and has a campground adjacent. If you leave Albuquerque Friday night, you might be able to make it there. It's just under 200 miles. If you can't get that far after work, there's a campground at Valley of Fires State Park west of Carrizozo. We'll carpool from the Ranger Station, drive to the chairlift and take that to the top. You can either walk down or take the chairlift down. It's a 4½ mile hike back down to the chairlift and the cars. Bring your own food. We'll probably be getting to the top about lunch time. There are loads of flowers there, and hopefully there will have been enough rain by then to bring some out. As of this writing, forests there are open to hiking but smoking and open fires are not permitted. Cooking on stoves is OK. If you don't want to camp, there are loads of motels, plain and fancy, in Ruidoso. Bob Hutchins, who knows these mountains like we know our back yards, will lead the trip, so don't miss it.

COMING UP: Margaret Houston & Jin Karo will lead a nature hike in the Sandias July 24, for the Museum of Albuquerque. Meet at 10 A. M. at Western Skies, bring you own food & water. Trip goes to Cienega trail and crest.

NOTES

Melissa Savage would like to invite anyone interested in participating in the establishment of an arboretum in Santa Fe to call her at 983-1113.

Double Arrow Nature Studies, Inc., a non-profit corporation announced the opening, June 27, 1977, of its Nature Trails and Natural History Museum. The location is on the Old Santa Fe Trail one and one half miles south of Zia Road. For further information call 983-1562.

The Wheelright Museum has abandoned plans for completing their planned ethnobotanic garden due to an "extremely difficult financial position". From those involved in the research, planning and layout of the garden, MANY thanks to all who gave of their time, hard labor, expertise, gathering of seeds and donations of plants. We hope that at another time (soon)! and place, Santa Fe may have its own Botanic Garden.

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Please, all notes or announcements should be mailed
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