

September, 1977

Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
September Newsletter

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At our August meeting, Warren Wagner gave a most interesting and informative talk on the flora of the Animas Mountains, a rather unique area in the far Southwestern corner of the state. Because it has remained remote from most of the inroads of civilization; passing from Forest Service jurisdiction to inclusion in a large cattle ranch, the flora presented a splendid study opportunity for undisturbed botanic conditions.

Mr. Wagner collected some 720 species of flora, including 18 ferns and 100 grass species in the surrounding basal grasslands. The Animas are so situated that the southern slopes reflect many sub tropic and other species common to nearby Mexico, while the north facing slopes offer plant life that extends far northward through New Mexico.

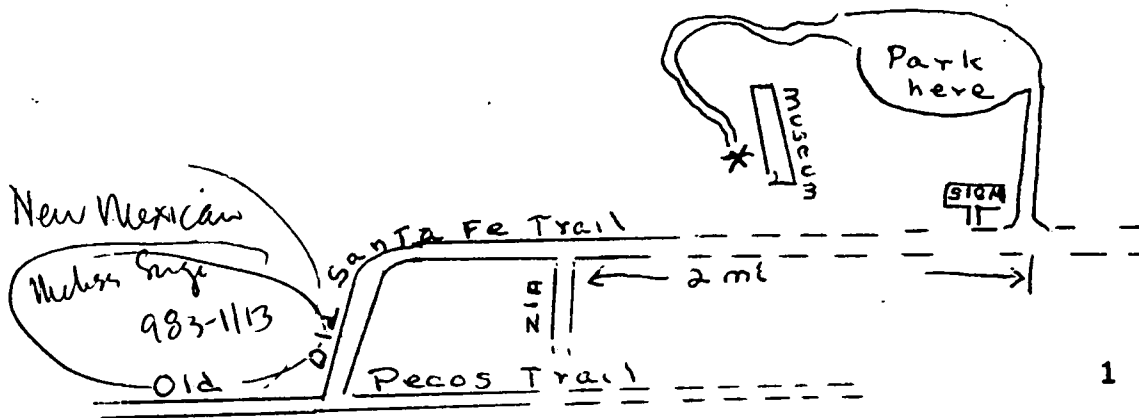
Mr. Wagner's talk was illuminated by many excellent slides of the flora and areas of the Animas they inhabit.

September Speaker of September

of the Native Plant Society of N.M.

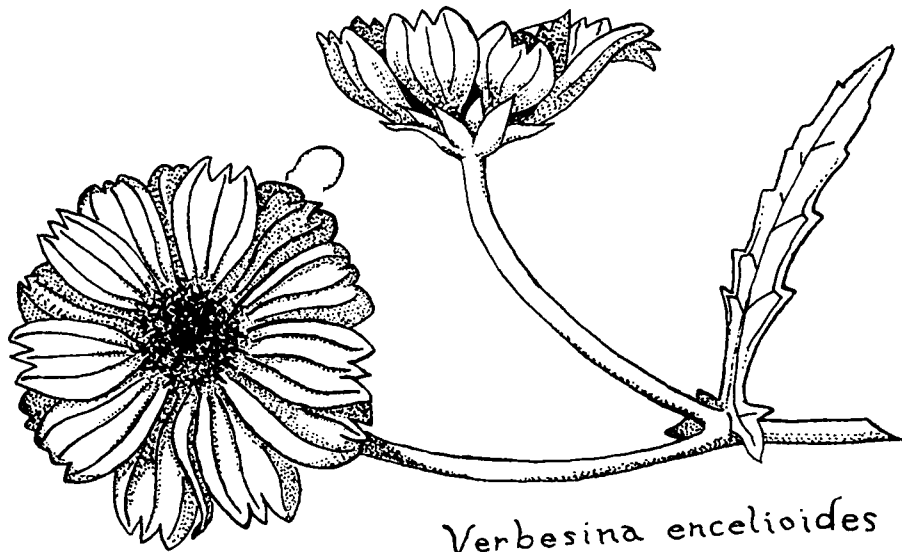
Donald C. Lowrie will be the speaker at <sup>the</sup> our September meeting at 7:30 P. M. on the 28th at the Natural History Museum of the Double Arrow Nature Studies, Inc. Drive out Old Santa Fe Trail and two miles past Zia Road, watch on the left for a sign "Double Arrow Stable, Inc."

It has been suggested that those ~~members~~ who can, arrive about half an hour early to take the shorter of the two interesting Nature Trail walks.



Irene Mitchell reminds us to circle October 15 on our calendar as the meeting date for that month. To be highlighted by a slide-talk by the Schooleys of Las Vegas. They are engaging speakers and superb photographers.

Golden crownbeard or goldweed, Verbesina encelioides, is an annual which is often found along roadsides, in fields, and waste areas throughout the southwest up to elevations of 7,500 feet. It is a member of the sunflower family (Compositae) and has bright yellow flowers resembling small sunflowers except for its yellow rather than brown centers. It is frequently abundant enough to be a spectacular element of the summer wildflower display. Seen everywhere around Santa Fe at this time of the year. The plants are easy to grow in any garden soil and the cut flowers last well in bouquets. It was used in the folk medicines of both the Indians and the white pioneers for skin ailments such as boils. The Hopi treat spider bite by bathing in water in which this plant has been steeped.



Drawing by David Deardorff

Anyone wishing seeds of the burgundy colored *Penstemon whippleanus* and/or *Robina neo mexicana*, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to David Deardorff, Plants of the Southwest, 542 Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fe, N. M. 87501 .



At our next and subsequent meetings, two more books will be offered at a generous reduction in price.

Rocky Mountain Flora by William Weber  
Retail -- \$12.50 - N. P. S. price -- \$10.25  
Rocky Mountain Plants by Ruth Ashton Nelson  
Retail -- \$6.95 - N. P. S. price -- \$5.75

The difference between our club price and basic book cost is a contribution to the Native Plant Society.

It was a pleasure to have Bill Mayfield of Bent, N. M. attending our last N. P. S. Meeting. Bill was the gracious host for those members who enjoyed the weekend field trip last year for flowering cacti and the flora of Sacramento's Dog Creek Canyon. We hope that more members from the Southern part of the state will be able to join us at future meetings.

## Six Mushrooms Named for Charles Barrows

Most of us who enjoy the plants of New Mexico find it satisfying to become familiar with a plant not previously known to us, and to learn its name. Few deal with the un-named which sit awkwardly between the named species in the identification keys. Charles Barrows has immersed himself in the mushroom flora of Northern New Mexico, practically unmentioned in mushroom literature, since he came to Santa Fe from New York as a young artist in 1928, and in the past ten years has been honored by having six species of mushroom which he collected named after him by the great mycologist, Alexander H. Smith of the University of Michigan. During the last twenty-five years Barrows has sent thousands of his collections to Dr. Smith, for most of that time being the sole worker in the New Mexico mushroom flora in contact with academic authorities who could put them in the perspective of the world mushroom flora. Several new species have been described from the Barrows collections other than those named after Barrows, but six so named provide a convenient way of sampling the unique discoveries.

The species most likely to be familiar to summer hikers in the Sangre de Cristo and Jemez Mountains is Boletus barrowsii, also known as the "White-Cap Bolete". Often six inches in diameter and soft grey-white, it is a choice edible mushroom and is found exclusively among Ponderosa pines. It has also been found in Arizona, Colorado, once in Idaho, and in Mexico by Bolete expert Harry Thiers of San Francisco State University.

Leccinum barrowsii was found by Charles Barrows on only one occasion, in Santa Clara Canyon. Identical in shape and habitat to Leccinum aurantiacum which is common in the aspen groves on our mountains, it differed in the possession of a rose-red cap, as well as in microscopic structure.

Pholiota barrowsii was named by Dr. Smith from a collection of Barrows' made in Hyde State Park. Macroscopically identical to the common Pholiota Squarrosa, it differs in having a layer of gelatinous tissue under the skin of the cap. Barrows was not informed of the new species designation until while studying microscopic identification with Dr. Smith he keyed a dried specimen out, to his surprise, to Pholiota barrowsii.

Psathyrella barrowsii, also distinguishable from similar species only by microscopic examination, lay in the University of Michigan herbarium for twenty years before Dr. Smith turned his attention to sorting out the species of Psathyrella.

Lactarius barrowsii is found in the Ponderosa and Pinyon pine stands in the Santa Fe and Los Alamos areas. A member of the Lactarius sanguifluous group with its blood-red juice, it is distinguished by a nearly white cap and pale dull pink gills, and is probably edible.

Amanita barrowsii, also found among Pinyon pines, is classified in a sub-group of Amanita in which the ring is lacking. Members of this sub-group are considered edible, but is probably unwise to consume them since the fragile ring of some poison-bearing Amanitas is sometimes absent.

Dr. Smith made his species descriptions and taxonomic placements based on his investigations into the microscopic structures of the dried mushrooms sent to him, along with information Barrows recorded as to the fresh color, taste, odor and habitat of the mushrooms. Except for Boletus barrowsii, it is likely that the species named for Charles Barrows are endemic to New Mexico, and that there are others unique to this area yet to be discovered. Barrows continues to collect mushrooms around Santa Fe and to enjoy the flavor of Boletus barrowsii and other edible species, and to share his knowledge of mushrooms through a field identification class taught along with Bill Isaacs at the College of Santa Fe.

David Sugar

We have just had word that there will be a mushroom display booth sponsored by the Native Plant Society, September 18 at the New Mexico State Fair.



**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF N.M.**

**2016 Valle Rio**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501**

