

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

newsletter

MARCH-APRIL 1983

VOLUME VIII NO.2

- March/April Southeast Chapter has no set meeting time. For information, call Nina Eppley at 622-7180.
- March/April Glenn Niner Chapter will be meeting with the Albuquerque Chapter. Make your plans to help at this year's Garden Center Sale.
- March 2 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Steve Brack of Mesa Gardens, Belen, will present a program on starting cacti and succulents from seed. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain RD, NW 7:30 pm.
- March 6 Las Cruces Field Trip to Soledad Canyon. Meet at Pan Am Center Parking Lot at 10 am.
- March 9 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Wednesdays): Elizabeth King will present a program on the New Mexico State University Museum. NMSU Ag Building, Room 156, 7:30 pm.
- March 16 Santa Fe Chapter meets(3rd Wednesdays): Walton Hawk, NPS member, from San Cristobal will present a program on Conifers. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- March 27 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets(last Sunda ys): A Slide program on the flora of Dog Canyon furnished by the NPS will be presented. Call Jean Dodd for the location and time. 434-3041.
- April 6 Albuquerque Chapter meets: Lisa Johnston from the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center will present a program on the propagation of native plants from cuttings. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Rd. NW, 7:30 pm.
- April 10 Las Cruces and Otero-Lincoln Joint Fieldtrip to Dog Canyon, Oliver Lee State Park. Las Cruces members: Meet at Brannegan Library at 12:30 pm. Otero-Lincoln members: Meet at the Oliver Lee State Park Visitors Center at 2:00 pm.
- April 13 Las Cruces Chapter meets: Mr. Richardson will present a program on the plants of Puerto Rico. NMSU Ag Building, Room 156, 7:30 pm.
- April 16 PLANT SALE! Albuquerque Garden Center's Annual Plant Sale. 8am-3pm. This annual event is again being held at the Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE. Here's a great chance to buy everything from *Achillea* to *Zinnia*. Stop by and see us at the Native Plant Society booth.
- April 20 Santa Fe Chapter meets: Don Lowrie will present a program on Winter plants and winter forms. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.

CHAPTER NOTES

Albuquerque Chapter

Judith Phillips was the speaker at the January meeting. She presented a program on techniques of starting native plants from seed. Propagation data for some of the more frequently used native plants was provided. In February, John Egbert, State Director of the Nature Conservancy spoke on the Conservancy's projects and activities, both from a national overview and more specifically in New Mexico. Upcoming plans include a weekend trip to the Bear Mountain Guest Ranch in Silver City, the first weekend in April. Preparations have begun for the plant sale sponsored by the Albuquerque Garden Center on April 16th. Contact Ted Hodoba at 242-3053 or Jim Lube at 292-4103 to help with this project.

-J.L.

Santa Fe Chapter

Our January meeting was an informal discussion and sharing between members. The wonderful winter weather prevented many of our members from coming. In February, Roger Peterson presented a program on Research Natural Areas and on some of his work with them. For 1983 Roger Peterson and Iris David will serve on the program committee. Other volunteers are always appreciated.

-I.D.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

New Mexico State University has a new publication out. It's called "Germination and Transplanting of *Baileya multiradiata*" by D.J. Cotter, L. Finkner & D. Sullivan. You can request a copy from your County Extension Office or write to Bulletin Room, Dept. of Ag Information, Box 3AI, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003. Ask for Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report #489.

-L.J.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS: DIRECTIONS TO AUTHORS

Now that we are ready to start the season's field trips, remember to share your exciting flower finds with the general NPS membership. The Field Trip Report is your chance to take all of us who can't come along to that desert grassland, canyon or alpine summit that you're visiting. Let the sun shine on us (or the clouds rain on us) with your creative and informative written picture of your favorite botanical journeys. Here are a few pointers to make your (and our) task a little easier.

no species lists, please. At least, not in your Field Trip Report. Send that along, too and we'll keep them on file to compare from year to year.

be selective. Choose the most interesting or spectacular species or features to write about. Let us know why the plants you mention are special. Was it their particular rarity or beauty? Did they form a unique community? Did you observe any pollinator activity? Was the species out of range, or not in the habitat where you expected it? Was it blooming early, or late? Do you know a story about the significance of the plant's name? Here is a chance to learn a little more about the plant in question and share what you have learned with the rest of us .

use common and scientific names. The NPS membership varies from the most professional botanists to people who just plain like flowers. We value all of our members, and want to share with them all. We may do this by using the most accurate scientific name, and also the more descriptive and colorful common name.

We trust that we have inspired many of you! Let's start to really share our field trip experiences.

-the Ed.

(taken from the Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Sept. 1982.)

THINKING NATURALLY

The Los Lunas Plant Materials Center was the site of a Chapter-boosters meeting, February 13th. The Meeting was called in response to several members requests for a brainstorming session to increase the range and focus of local NPS-NM chapter activities.

Suggestions for increasing public interest in NPS chapter activities included:

1. Scheduling speakers, field trips and other activities 6 to 12 months in advance - consistency is its own reward.
2. Publicizing activities in local media "events calendar" and keeping public figures like county extension agents and local garden experts informed of activities.
3. Notifying groups with similar interests of chapter events - many groups will reciprocate.
4. Circulate a sign-up sheet at meetings and notify people of coming events by phone or mail. (Alb. notifies everyone who has attended any of the last 3 meetings.)
5. Encourage general participation in special projects such as gardening clinics, show & tell meetings, plant sales, etc.

Tentative plans were made for two statewide meetings; a mid-May meeting at Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm, Veguita, to focus on the election of state officers in a growing-native atmosphere, and a native plant celebration in September in Capitan, NM. This annual meeting cum fiesta will be Sept. 24-25 at Smokey the Bear State Park. With October '82 at Magdalena as a prototype, the Capitan celebration will be two days of walking, talking, eating and sleeping native. If you missed the Magdalena meeting, mark the last weekend in September on your calendar now. Anyone interested in helping coordinate this affair: arranging for guest speakers & fieldtrip guides, propagation & landscape workshops, assisting with local arrangements, and pulling together the loose ends, please contact the editors.

No experience necessary, just Enthusiasm!

HORNOS AND WHOOPERS

This overnight field trip (Saturday and Sunday March 19-20) will be led by Dan Scurlock, anthropologist, historian, and naturalist. He will take you on a guided tour of the Rio Abajo, from Isleta Pueblo to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Besides sampling Indian bread and watching for whooping cranes, there will be stops along the way with various speakers. Topics will include Pueblo and Hispano architecture, Flora and fauna, Medicinal plants, and Historic Agriculture. Cost per adult is \$16. Registration must be in by March 11. For more information, contact Dan Scurlock at 242-1635 (afternoons or evenings) or write P.O. Box 40364, Albuquerque, NM 87196.

-D.S.

ALBUQUERQUE GOES TO SILVER CITY

Want a fun-filled weekend in the Gilas? The Albuquerque Chapter is organizing a trip to the Bear Mountain Guest Ranch in Silver City, for the weekend of April 8th-10th. Myra McCormick, owner and NPS member has given us a great price - \$22 per night, including Myra's home cooked meals. To be part of this weekend, or for more details, contact Jim Lube, 1208 Monte Largo Court NE, Albuquerque NM 87123. All reservations must be accompanied by a \$22 deposit.

-F.S.

Contributors to this issue are:

E.M. Ellie Mitchell
I.D. Iris David
F.S. Frances Szeman
L.J. Lisa Johnston
J.E. John Egbert
J.L. Jim Lube
D.S. Dan Scurlock
J.P. Judith Phillips

Q: What criteria do you use in selecting natives for landscape use?

A: I begin the design process by analyzing the physical properties of a site - its soils, orientation to the sun, prevailing winds, existing plants, good and bad views, etc. I then consider what might be called the nonphysical aspects of the design situation. These include how and when the landscape will be used, the clients' budget, and any preferences or priorities they might identify. At first it would appear that the physical properties are the basic "givens"; but when you think about it, most of them can be modified: Amendments can be added to change the structure of the soil, and windbreaks can be planted to alter a focal point and at the same time provide a favorable microclimate for a special penstemon. The nonphysical aspects, on the other hand, are much less open to modification. Many of my clients indicate a preference for low maintenance designs, and that's a "given" I wouldn't presume or want to change. I thus try to select plants that will meet the needs of the people for whom the landscape is being designed.

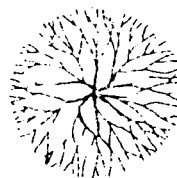
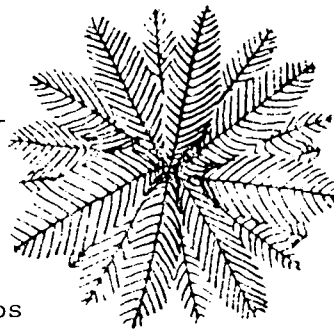
Q: Do you propose the use of natives to your clients or vice versa?

A: I've specialized in native plants for several years, so most of the people who seek my help do so because they're interested in natives too. I might add, however, that there's considerable confusion about what a native plant is. We all understand it's a plant that's indigenous to an area or region, but there's misunderstanding about what constitutes a region. Most of my clients are from the Albuquerque metropolitan area, which supports a Grasslands Plant Community. The vegetation which naturally covers our mesas consists primarily of grasses. One usually finds shrubs such as fourwing saltbush, chamisa and Apache plume where moisture is available along drainageways or north and east of landforms. These are Albuquerque's native plants. But, for landscaping purposes, we often borrow trees, shrubs, and groundcovers from the plant communi-

ties found at higher elevations. I've discovered that most plants from the Pinyon-Juniper and many from the Pine-Oak communities can be grown in the Metropolitan area, but more moisture must be made available to them.

Q: Do you find a distinct correlation between native plants and certain landscape styles?

A: I think landscape styles are determined by the ways in which materials, including plants, are arranged rather than by the materials themselves. Straight lines, sharply defined areas, and symmetry characterizes a formal design. Curved lines, flowing spaces, and asymmetry contribute to an informal look. The same native plants can be used in either type of style. A row of evenly spaced silver buffalo berry makes an elegant formal hedge. The same plants clustered in groves look as if they simply happened. Wildflowers of related hues planted between brick borders may enhance a formal design; but the same flowers strewn in a meadow or scattered beneath a grove of trees appear spontaneous and perfectly natural in an informal scheme. Other factors - the architecture of the house or business establishment, adjacent landscapes, and the size and shape of the site - may influence the formality of a design. Usually I think it's a matter of personal preference, and natives can be used whatever the choice.



Size	Plan
8 ft.	Pinyon Pine - Pinus e
6 ft.	Pinyon Pine - Pinus e
5 ft.	Pinyon Pine - Pinus e
5 gal.	Desert Willow - Chilo
5 gal.	Curlleaf Mountain Mah
5 gal.	Tam Juniper - Juniper
1 gal.	Cliffrose - Cowania m
1 gal.	Big Sage - Artemisia
1 gal.	Chamisa - Chrysothamn
1 gal.	Garden Sage - Salvia
1 gal.	Prostrate Juniper - J
	'Emerald Spreader'
1 gal.	Silvermound - Artemis
1 gal.	Fringed Sage - Artemis
1 gal.	English Ivy - Hedera
1 gal.	Honeysuckle - Lonicera

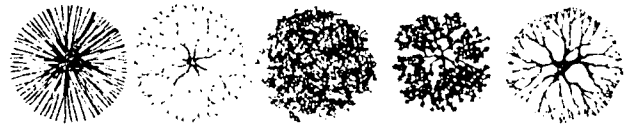
Q: What are some of your favorite plant combinations and why?

A: Two combinations stand out in my mind because I've used them successfully in several different design situations. The first combines pinyon, juniper, three-leaf sumac, and two forms of Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium* and *M. repens*). All of these plants are borrowed from higher elevations. They thus require supplemental watering and prefer north or east orientations. I think they deserve the extra care because they offer something special throughout the year. In the spring, the new foliage on the sumac and grapes is a light, bright green tinged with red. Deep green throughout the summer, the sumac turns crimson in the fall and then drops its leaves to reveal an interesting winter silhouette. The grapes, which are also deep green in the summer, turn plum in the winter in contrast to the pinyon and juniper.

My second favorite combination mixes desert willow, mountain mahogany, chamisa, juniper and fringed sage. All of these plants can take the sun and are exceptionally heat and drought tolerant. The dark green of the mahogany and juniper contrasts with the silver gray of the other plants and together they provide the perfect background for bouquets of wildflowers or vibrantly colored bedding plants. I do not, by the way, hesitate to combine natives and naturalized plants with exotics that have the same maintenance requirements. If they enhance the effect and can, literally, take the heat, I welcome exotics in any landscape design.

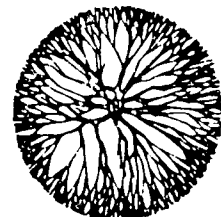
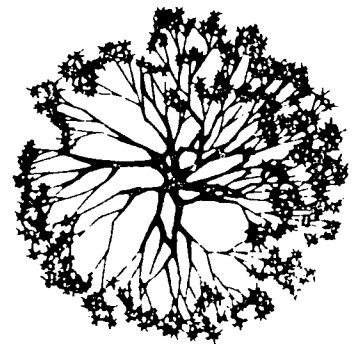
Q: Do you outline maintenance requirements for native landscapes, and, if so, give an example.

A: I offer my clients general maintenance instructions and provide them with a specific watering schedule (see below). While we all know that once they're established, natives can survive with relatively little attention, I tell my clients that their plants will look better with a minimum of routine maintenance. I recommend the use of a balanced slow-release fertilizer in the spring and light pruning in the spring or summer. I also remind them to irrigate deeply when they water. Since the need to water is dependent upon a number of factors, a schedule is only an approximation. I also try to identify one species in each planting area that can serve as a living tensiometer. The leaves of an ox-eye daisy, for example, will turn limp and lusterless if it needs water. When that happens, it's probably time to irrigate everything.



Further questions or comments may be sent to Ellie at: Mitchell Environmental Planning and Design, INC., 1304 Los Arboles NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

-E.M.



Material	Planting Schedule	Watering Schedule
Julis	See Plan	Every 7-10 days
Julis	See Plan	Every 7-10 days
Julis	See Plan	Every 7-10 days
osis linearis	Plant 12 ft. o.c.	Every 7-10 days
ogany - Cercocarpus ledifolius	See Plan	Every 7-10 days
is sabina 'Tamariscifolia'	Plant 4-5 ft. o.c.	Every 10-14 days
exicana	Plant 3 ft. o.c.	Every 10-14 days
ridentata	See Plan	Every 10-14 days
is nauseosus	Plant 3 ft. o.c.	Every 7-10 days
gregii	Plant 2 ft. o.c.	Every 7 days
iniperus horizontalis	Plant 3-4 ft. o.c.	Every 10-14 days
a schmidtiana 'Silvermound'	Plant 1 ft. o.c.	Every 7 days
ia frigada	Plant 1 ft. o.c.	Every 7-10 days
elix	Plant 18 in. o.c.	Every 7-10 days
japonica 'Halliana'	Plant 2-3 ft. o.c.	Every 7-10 days

DESERT SHRUBS SUB FOR EXPENSIVE PESTICIDES

Scraggly desert shrubs that make their own natural pesticides may offer alternatives to products now made from expensive petroleum, says a University of California biologist.

"We do have an alternative to petroleum-based chemicals, and we have it in natural sources," says Elroy Rodriguez of UC, Irvine. "And desert plants are not rare; they grow like weeds."

"The brittlebush is a good example. It is very common in Southern California, and it produces a whole repertoire of defensive chemicals," he says. Like most natural pesticides, the shrubs' defenses don't directly kill insects, at least not in concentrations found in nature. The brittlebush makes several chemicals classified as turpenoids, which repel hungry pests.

The brittlebush also makes chemicals called precocenes that produce more dramatic effects by confusing the bugs' development. "The adult (insect) will be sterile and sometimes they are deformed," he said.

Aside from pesticides, some desert plants may be farmed for use as substitutes for other kinds of petroleum products as oil supplies dwindle. Two popular possibilities, he said, are guayule, which produces a type of rubber, and jojoba, which contains a lubricant similar to whale oil. Both plants grow well in the desert but don't have the natural insecticides of the brittlebush. He cautioned, though, that just because a chemical is found in nature doesn't mean it's not dangerous.

From: Weeds Trees & Turf,
January 1981 issue, p. 12,14.



Want to swap wildflower seed from Taos Rio Grande gorge area for other varieties? I have about a dozen kinds, including beeplant, apache plume, sunflower, globe mallow, showy gilia (blue), loasa, and more. Please write if you have seeds to trade.

Mary Fragola
Carson, NM 87517



EMORY BACCHARIS
Baccharis emoryi Gray



SEEPWILLOW BACCHARIS
Baccharis glutinosa Pursh

BACCHARIS NICHES IN THE LOWER GILA VALLEY

Four *Baccharis* species inhabit the lower Gila Valley in New Mexico. Two of the plants, *B. glutinosa* and *B. emoryi*, are restricted to stream course edges while *B. pteronioides* and *B. sarothroides* prefer drier sites.

The mesic pair are significant nurse plants following floods for the dominant broadleaf deciduous trees that emerge on stream benches. *B. glutinosa* is the dominant shrub and masses in open areas, whereas *B. emoryi* generally grows as an understory or woodland edge species. The more abundant *B. glutinosa* quickly stabilizes banks and forms thickets for Gambel's quail, Yellow breasted chats, Abert's towhee, and wintering seed-eating passerines. Migrant warblers such as Wilson's and MacGillivrays frequent these multi-stemmed plants, too. The tiny achenes do not appear to be relished, except perhaps by lesser goldfinches. Juncos do frequent these thickets in winter and may utilize littered seeds.

One way of differentiating these two seepwillows is by rubbing one's hands over the leaves. The simpler leaved *B. glutinosa* as opposed to the tri-toothed *B. emoryi* leaves are resinous and vanilla carmel-like in smell. They have a hint of pearly everlasting or camomile. An eyewash was made by native Americans from these leaves.

B. pteronioides and *B. sarothroides* are localized, especially in dry areas.

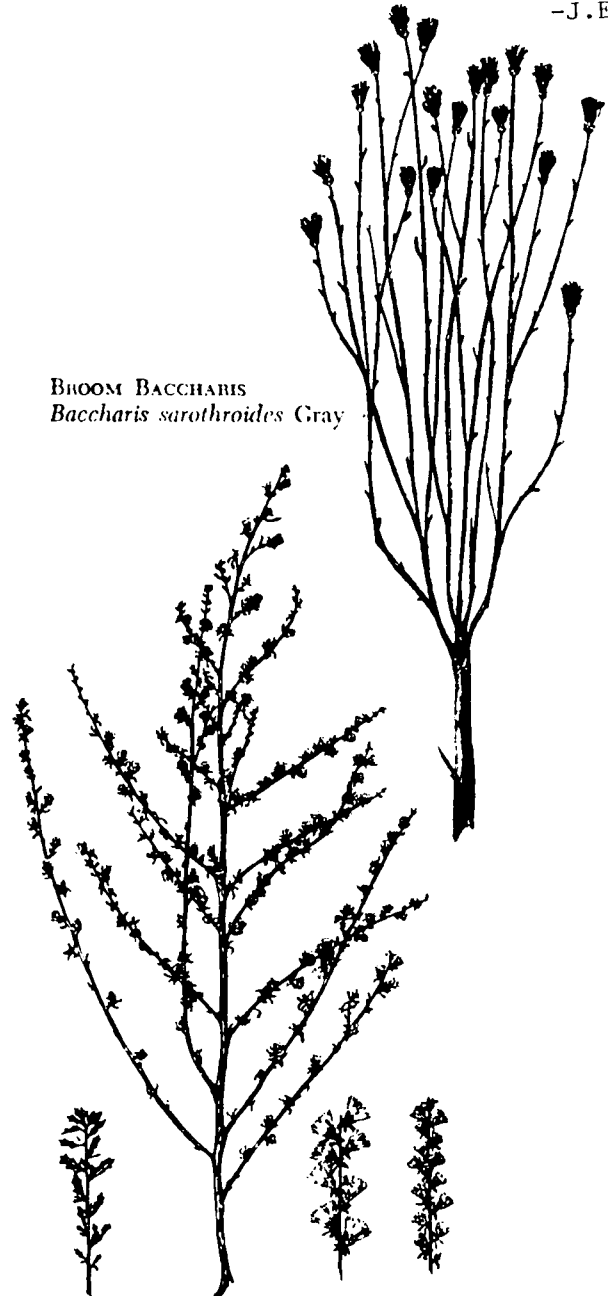
B. sarothroides prefers roadsides, saline soils, and occasionally slopes, and is close to the northern limit of its range. It is a handsome, full shrub to seven feet with excellent landscape potential. Seed can be gathered in early November. *B. pteronioides*, alias yerba de pasmo, is the smallest and most reduced overall of the four species. As expected, it tolerates drought the best and is normally restricted to rocky areas in full sun. It was traditionally used for treating chills. I have observed no wildlife use of these scattered plants. All of the seepwillows are soft

used for treating chills. I have observed no wildlife use of these scattered plants. All of the seepwillow are soft wood similar to elderberry. *B. emoryi* and *B. glutinosa* purportedly grow easily from cuttings. I neither experimented with these nore the more xeric pair, but I am giving 1982 *B. sarothroides* seed to the Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm.

References: Vines, Robert. Woody Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Southwest.

-J.E.

BROOM BACCHARIS
Baccharis sarothroides Gray



YERBA-DE-PASMO BACCHARIS
Baccharis pteronioides (DC.) Gray

THIRD CLASS

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

NONPROFIT ORGN
BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
Los Lunas, NM
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Send change of address or any newsletter
contributions to:
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NEWSLETTER
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LOS LUNAS NM 87031

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Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe NM 87502

____ New
____ Renewal
____ Annual (\$8.00)
____ Friend (\$25.00 min)

Please check the following list to indicate your area(s) of interest
and/or anything that you would like to assist with. Address your
check to the above address.

	Interested	Willing to help
Landscaping with Native plants		
Conservation/Ecology		
Rare or Endangered plants		
Photography, slide collection		
Field trip		
Program planning		
Newsletter: Writing		
Mailing		
Clerical		
Membership Committee		

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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Street City State Zip



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