

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

newsletter

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

VOLUME VIII NO.6

- Nov/Dec Glenn Niner Chapter will meet with Albuquerque this month.
- November 6 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets: Business meeting, 2:00 pm at Nancy Hutto's in Tularosa. Turn west off the highway at the Tularosa Tastee Freeze. Nancy's house is about 1 1/2 miles from there. Cross the railroad tracks and keep going until the road ends. Turn right, it's the first house on the left.
- November 8 Southeast Chapter meets: Ann Ramage, archeologist with the BLM will present a slide show about archeology in this area. Eastern New Mexico (ENM) Medical Center dining room. 7:30 pm.
- November 9 Las Cruces Chapter meets (2nd Wednesdays): Annual get-together and pot luck, 6:30 pm. For more information, call Tom(522-4434) Jean (526-3771) or Bob (523-1806).
- November 13 Albuquerque Chapter meets: A general clean-up, work day at the Castetter Garden at the base of the Sandia Peak Tramway. This garden is full of natives with a special emphasis on cacti. Meet in the Tramway parking lot, 1:30 pm. Bring gloves, pruners, etc. For more information, call Ted (242-3053) or Jackie (294-2178).
- November 16 Santa Fe Chapter meets (3rd Wednesdays): Larry Deaven will present a program on Rock Gardening with high elevation plants. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- December Las Cruces Chapter has no meeting - see you in 1984.
- December 4 Santa Fe Chapter Field Trip: A winter botany walk led by member Don Lowrie. For more information, call Iris (988-1709) or Bette (988-4830).
- December 7 Albuquerque Chapter meets: Annual pot luck dinner. Bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert. For more information on the time and place, call Ted (242-3053) or Jackie (294-2178).
- December 13 Southeast Chapter meets: Jesse Juen, BLM biologist will report on a recently completed study of endangered plant species in Southeastern New Mexico. Eastern New Mexico (ENM) dining room. 7:30 pm.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The annual meeting was held in late September in Capitan. We had a very enjoyable series of meetings and field trips. Once again, I'd like to express everyone's thanks to Lisa Johnston, Jean Dodd, and the members of the Otero-Lincoln Chapter, and all the others who made our meeting such a success.

Many of us who are concerned with the environment often wonder what we can do as individuals. Landscaping with native plants is one small but significant thing we can do. Not only do we conserve water but with the right plant material we can create wildlife habitat. In the cities we can grow plants attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and songbirds. In the rural areas we can create habitats for larger animals as well. There is a real sense of satisfaction that perhaps we have contributed to a better earth in this way.

On a sadder note, the Society has recently lost one of our most dedicated members, Bill Mayfield of Bent, NM. He will be greatly missed, and the work he did will be remembered by all of us.

-T.H.

Contributors to this issue:

-E.W. Ellen Wilde
-G.F. George Finley
-J.D. Jean Dodd
-J.P. Judith Phillips
-J.L. Jean Lozier
-T.H. Ted Hodoba

CHAPTERS

Albuquerque - Ted Hodoba, 217 Arno Se, Albuquerque NM 87102 (242-3053)
Glenn Niner - Lisa Johnston, PO Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031 (865-5608)
Las Cruces - Jean Lozier, 1934 Highland Ave. Las Cruces NM 88001 (526-3771)
Otero-Lincoln - Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd. Alamogordo NM 88310 (434-3041)
Madeline Murray, PO Drawer 368, Ruidoso Downs NM 88346 (378-4117)
Santa Fe - Iris David, PO Box 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502 (988-1709)
Southeast - George & Myrtle Finley, 1001 Kings Road, Roswell NM 88201 (622-8486)

HASTA LUEGO, BILL -- AND THANKS

Rarely are the words "Real Estate Developer" and "Conservationist" uttered amicably in the same breath. Often their aims are considered to be in opposite directions. Bill Mayfield was the rare person who personified both aspects at their finest.

As a real estate developer, Bill has been described as a man "ahead of his time". Because he didn't see 'develop' and 'conserve' as contradictory terms, he didn't bulldoze to build. Rather he worked to incorporate homes into a landscape that he considered a masterpiece.

The same energy, common sense and sense of place that fueled his business success, imbued his activities with the Native Plant Society. "We need to get people involved," he would say as he pounded his fist on the table, "we need to know the skills of our members". The Otero-Lincoln chapter is the result of that conviction. His support of NMSU Extension Service Bulletins on native plants is another example of Mayfield's dedication to getting good things done, the wheels turning. But what is a dynamo without humor? Certainly not a Mayfield. The Orogrande 'National' Forest was another of his popular causes, or so he'd like you to believe.

We'll miss the man with the *Baileya* in his shirt pocket. His smile, quick wit and boundless energy fueled us and made impossible things happen. Bill Mayfield won't be forgotten. He lives on through the Native Plant Society.

SANTA FE SCURRIES

Is your garden too small? Would you like to help landscape 50 acres with native plants? The Santa Fe Chapter is taking on a project of that size and will welcome all kinds of help.

This summer, curators & volunteers at the Museum of International Folk Art, a unit of the Museum of New Mexico, became concerned that young pinyon trees, planted after the completion of the Girard Wing, were dying. Curator Nora Fisher talked to several authorities and learned that they needed watering basins and regular watering. Since there were over 50 trees, Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society members were called upon and a work party was organized for one Saturday morning in August. Fourteen workers came and worked enthusiastically for several hours. Among the volunteers was Mark Cherry, an outstanding local landscape designer who works with native plants. When we all sat down to brunch after working several hours at making the basins, cutting weeds and marking out a path to a future picnic area, the idea of landscaping the grounds evolved and a plant sale was organized to raise some money to begin. Three weeks later, the sale netted \$220 and quite a few leftover asters, penstemon and flax. We have been working Saturday mornings since that time setting out those plants, improving soil around the entryway, making planting plans, pruning and weeding. The planting around the entryway will be completed in a few more weeks with the generosity and help of Evergreen Nursery, Santa Fe Nursery Co., Plants of the Southwest, Agua Fria Nursery and many individuals.

The Museum of New Mexico staff members have been very enthusiastic about our project. A representative from the Native Plant Society will be invited to participate in a meeting with the architect of the new Museum of Indian Arts regarding the Master Plan for the 50 acre property on which it will be located with the Museum of International Folk Art and the Laboratory of Anthropology.

This is the time for input on utilizing water conservation principles and native plants. The property is one of the loveliest in Santa Fe with a good stand of the Pinyon-Juniper plant community and beautiful views in all directions. Very little non-native planting has been done and there are no serious erosion problems.

We would like to make the grounds a showcase for the beauty and utility of native plant landscaping; of interest to out of state visitors who are not familiar with our native plants and a resource for residents wanting to learn to landscape their homes with natives. Ideas include making the grounds a garden center for all garden clubs to use for plant sales and flower shows and an educational exhibit of the historical usage of native plants. We welcome all suggestions and help. Please contact Nora Fisher, Curator, Museum of International Folk Art, 706 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe NM 87504-2087 (827-8350) or Iris David, NPS-NM SF Chapter, PO Box 4156, Santa Fe NM 87502 (988-1709).

-E.W.

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PSST! CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

Urban Forest Park is one of Albuquerque's best kept secrets. Located facing I-40 west of Carlisle Blvd, the park is an amazing example of cooperative conservation and beautification. The 10 acres separating an established residential area and the freeway was donated to the city by the neighborhood it borders as the site for a 'passive use' park. David Whittaker, Urban Forester for the Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, attributes the success of the park largely to community demand and support.

Site planning included several conservationist concepts. Providing a visual and sound buffer between the interstate and adjacent residences, the landscape includes several native and/or drought tolerant evergreens and deciduous trees such as One-seed Juniper, Arizona Cypress, Pinyon, Mondell Pine, Cottonwood, White Poplar and Black Locust. The originally flat grade cut by an arroyo was altered radically, the soil contoured to utilize storm drainage. Run-off is channeled through underground culverts into several large basins where plantings well suited to such ecosystems benefit from supplemental water that would otherwise be wasted. Most of the tall trees are located in these basins in groupings designed for visual impact as well as "nuisance water" management.

The contoured grade incidently provides varied microclimates for native shrubs placed to best advantage for plant growth as well as aesthetic value. Three-leaf Sumac, Rabbitbrush Chamisa, Saltbush, Mountain Mahogany, Big Leaf Sage, Shrubby Cinquefoil and Creeping Mahonia contribute seasonal color and textural interest and stabilize soil on the sloping terrain.

The trees and shrubs were planted and a drip irrigation system installed in the spring of 1981. A framework for the future naturalization of a carefully designed land-



scape system had been established through the collaboration of an actively interested community, the forestry expertise of Whittaker and the design talent of former city landscape architect Gary Dickerson. "We provided the skeleton", says Whittaker, "for natural site adaptations, reseeding and succession."

A naturalized wildflower and grass meadow is a unifying factor in the design and a practical soil stabilizer. The site was seeded in September 1982 at a rate of 35 lbs. of mixed seed per acre (2 lbs. mixed wildflowers to 33 lbs. of mixed grasses; a ratio of 1 oz. wildflower seed to 1 lb. grass seed.) The wildflower mix was 75% perennials and 25% annuals. The area was irrigated weekly (twice weekly during summer heat) with impact type sprinkler heads to encourage rapid establishment, vigorous growth and heavy reseeding.

An examination of the site on a per-square-foot basis is impressive. Gaillardia, Rocky Mt. Penstemon, Coneflower, Flax and Rudbeckia, running the gamut of new seedlings and juvenile rosettes to flowering and seeding mature specimens provide dense cover. Purple Aster and Calliopsis are plentiful. The careful observer will spot an occasional Indian Paintbrush. Whittaker is justly gratified with the show, "This spring the Scarlet Flax and White Evening Primroses were spectacular. They were followed by Black-eyed Susans and Blue Flax, now the Asters...the succession is interesting." Indeed! Gail Haggard of Plants of the Southwest recommended the mix, donating her consultation to the effort in support of such public use of natives in landscaping.

An early hard freeze in October cut short the maturation period for newly germinated seed. "The grasses had come up like a carpet, but the early cold and frost heaving the soil killed off a large portion of the new seedlings", says Whittaker. Grasses are a very minor element of

Dear Editors,

I am a free-lance writer currently researching a book on landscaping with native plants, to be published by Ortho Books. I am gathering as much information as possible on garden uses of native plants in different areas of the country, their propagation and culture, and the mechanics of designing and building a successful native plant garden based on the different native plant communities of each region.

Can you direct me to members of your organization who are particularly expert at landscaping with native plants, or who have beautiful gardens of native plants which we might visit or photograph? We want to make the book as complete as possible, and will value any help you can give us.

I can be reached at either by mail at the following address, or by telephone (collect) at (415) 934-1014. Thank you.

-William Wilson
2869 Kinney Dr.
Walnut Creek CA 94595

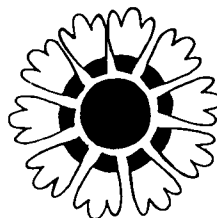
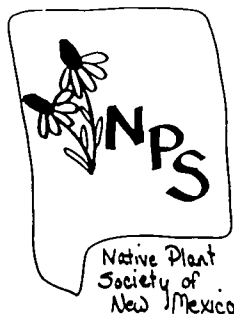
--This is your chance to make a substantial contribution to a book about landscaping with natives. Don't be shy, we are all experts at something, drop Mr. Wilson a note and give him your views.

-The Ed.

LOGO VOTE

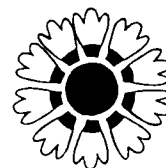
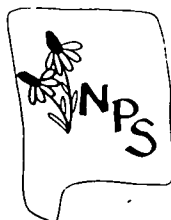
Below are the finalists in our logo contest. Select the one you like best and mark it on the ballot below. This is merely a choice for the design, all the wording will be added in an appropriate style once the final logo is selected. We must receive your ballot by Sunday, November 20.

Also remember to vote for the 1984 NPS Officers on the reverse side of the ballot. This puts us in line with the recent changes in the by-laws.



LOGO BALLOT

(We must receive your ballot by November 20)





PLAYING SANTA?

Gift Ideas for a Joyous Native-ity



Membership in NPS - an \$8 subscription fee expresses your thoughtful greeting via the bi-monthly newsletter, and puts your native plant lovers in touch with many people with similar interests.

Gifts of seed or plants are a source of growing pleasure for years after this holiday season. Give plants you've grown or purchase nursery grown specimens. (see ads).

Take someone for a relaxing stay with Mvra McCormick etal at the Bear Mountain Guest Ranch. Try hiking, plant and bird watching, plus more (see ad).

1984 Endangered Wildflower Calendar with 15 color photos of endangered American flowers. 10 1/4 x 17" open, 32 pages. Price \$6.00. Order from: Endangered Wildflower Calendar, c/o Biology Dept., Brooklyn College, Brooklyn NY 11210.

Contribute to a conservation group or natural history organization in your own or someone else's name.

Desert Plants, a quarterly journal published by the U. of Arizona for Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum, PO Box AB, Superior AZ 85273 (about \$12).

Stocking stuffers:

Wildflower poster \$1.25 from Clyde Robin Seed Co. Poster Offer, PO Box 2366 Castro Valley CA 94546.

National Arboretum Poster 25x33" free from the US National Arboretum Dept. FC, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington DC 20036.

DECKING THE HALLS

Winterfat seedheads, Indian Ricegrass and Purple Aster tops (after all the seed disperses) make great wreath trimmings. Yucca pods and Coyote gourds (painted with pottery motifs and lacquered) make interesting tree trimmings.

1984 NPS Officer Elections

(we must receive your ballot by November 20)

- _____ President: Ted Hodoba
- _____ Secretary: Frances Szeman
- _____ Treasurer: Judith Phillips
- _____ Membership: Iris David
- _____ Board Members: Phyllis Hughes
- _____ Jean Dodd
- _____ Lisa Johnston

Please mail your ballot to:

NPS of NM
PO Box 934
Los Lunas NM 87031

the total cover at present, which may partially account for the strong wildflower dominance. Personal observation of several meadows-in-transition and feedback from other NPS meadow watchers has noted a trend toward grasses overpowering the forbs as the planting matures. (Smokey Bear State Park is a case in point.) That early freeze may have been an advantage. Time will tell.

Whittaker is in the process of documenting the planning, establishment and development of the Urban Forest Park, an important effort that will be invaluable in the planning of similar projects.

Maintenance of the area has been limited to regular and thorough watering and a single marathon weeding. The bark mulch footpath had been mowed to provide access, but by August the Kochia and Tumbleweed had grown to tree size. The adjacent neighborhood organization called the Parks Department asking what they could do to help. A neighborhood weed-a-thon was scheduled for one Saturday morning in September and the group donated a sum of money to pay for an additional city weed crew to finish the job. Again Whittaker cited the community role in the success of the park. He spent Saturday morning out there weeding with the neighbors, "...because I want them to know how much we appreciate their support. This situation has got to be unique."

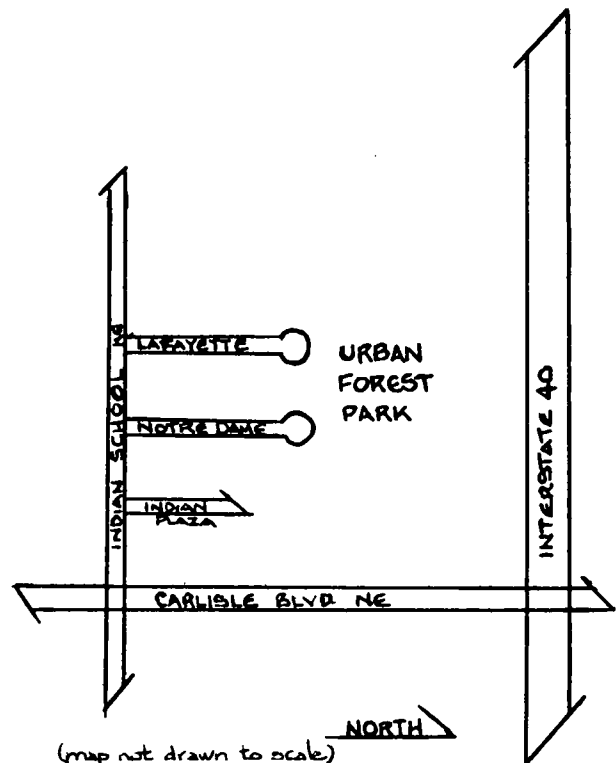
Future plans for maintenance are flexible: spot weeding, no pruning except where plant health dictates, reduced irrigating determined by monitoring plant response, and possibly mowing the meadow to a height of 12 inches in November.

After a tour of the park with David Whittaker, I wonder what is the most remarkable feature there -- the 5-15 wildflowers per square foot of land that was once zoned for high density townhouse development; the cooperation of concerned

citizens and city government in establishing a walk-through composite of the diversity of New Mexico flora; the use of run-off to support a beautification project; or the fact that it was accomplished for approximately \$120,000, about one third of the budget for city parks of comparable size and narrower scope.

The evolution of this park deserves careful observation and its supporters a hearty round of applause. Yes, I'd say that the Urban Forest Park has got to be unique. It's been said that if you want to attract someone's attention, whisper...and if you want to keep a great secret, cooperate?

-J.P.





THE CAPITAN CONNECTION

A dripping sky greeted NPS members that Saturday morning in Capitan. No matter. There were places to go and people to see. Those hospitable folks at Smokey Bear State Park, Jack Barr and Patsy Peralta, literally gave us the run of their beautiful facility. Members renewed old friendships, perused the books, cards, technical bulletins and items for auction, and walked through the native landscape of the visitor center.

The field trip to Fort Stanton Mesa was led by Dr. Kelly Allred, Range plant specialist from NMSU. Dr. Allred was joined by several members of the Society in identifying grasses and wildflowers on the Mesa. Roger Peterson and Iris David of Santa Fe came equipped with press to prepare the more ambiguous specimens for later identification.

Back at Smokey Bear Park, an intermittent rain did little to dampen the spirits of picnickers. After a round of introductions with emphasis on everyone's special interests, George Finley of Roswell focused on the photographers in the group. His brief talk on the problems of wildflower photography and possible solutions and a Q & A session was accompanied by enlargements of some of his photos. The growers in the group followed with an open discussion of their propagation projects. As usual, questions outnumbered answers.

On the road again, the group moved on to the Lolli residence for a home landscape tour with a difference. The Lollis explained the basic changes they had made on their property: water diversion to prevent erosion and utilize runoff, fencing constructed of pruned branches supporting native vines as wildlife cover. Doris Lolli described her various propagating activities: a sheltered bed for

new plantings, plants cultivated for seed production and others like Desert Four O'Clock that are propagated vegetatively, by root cuttings. Hot coffee on their large patio took the chill off a sharp wind and allowed more time for casual conversations.

By late afternoon the group had moved on to the Lincoln Court House to meet Cleis Jordan, member from Lincoln, who led a tour of that historic town. After a brief history of Lincoln, the group visited several restored buildings. Cleis' running commentary on the people and places behind the events, brought old Lincoln back to life. Members who had visited Lincoln a few years ago commented on the many changes, especially the new museum and restorations funded through private and public donations.

A pleasant dinner in the Wortley dining room was followed by a talk by Dr. David Deardorff from the New Mexico Heritage Program on rare and threatened plants in New Mexico, discussing methods used to determine these categories, and slides of many of the plants being studied. Deardorff pointed out the strong correlation between habitat and plant populations, the rare and threatened species often specifically adapted to a unique habitat that is itself threatened.

The Sunday breakfast meeting was a mix of business: a resolution passed to honor Bill Mayfield; and Show & Tell: Myrtle Finley of Roswell displayed her dried flowers and discussed methods used in drying, Phyllis Hughes of Santa Fe discussed the ancient art of botanical printing using inked plant specimens.

The last stop on this botanic and historic spree in the Lincoln-Capitan area was a field trip to Eagle Creek near Ruidoso. Larry Anklam, Paul Gordon and Randy of the Forest Service in Ruidoso led the way. With their approval, members engaged in some judicious seed

collecting and again specimens were collected for later identification.

We thank all the good people who participated in this event, sharing their expertise and/or curiosity. See you all next year !!



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CHAPTER NOTES

Las Cruces

We invited Roy Vail, a Las Cruces High School Biology teacher to show his slides of the Galapagos Islands. These were from his trip in 1980. Our September field trip was scheduled to go to Aguirre Springs. We never did get to the Springs because we made so many stops along the way. By the time we had finished examining all the interesting things we found, the day had ended.

In October, Dr. Richard Spellenberg of the NMSU Biology Department presented a program on Yemen, its people, plants and ecology. The field trip to Soledad Canyon was, as always, a pleasurable time.

Happy holidays to everyone from the Las Cruces Chapter!

-J.L.

Otero-Lincoln

The Otero-Lincoln Chapter met September 4th at the home of Madeline Murray. We toured Madeline's garden and yard and then went on to admire the wildflowers at the neighboring home of Shirley Neuhaus in Ruidoso Downs.

-J.D.

Southeast

We had no summer meeting. Our problem in trying to set a regular meeting schedule is not apathy but a membership with many interests and established commitments. Chapter members who made the statewide meeting at Capitan had a ball--no less.

The New Mexico Nature Conservancy sets out to preserve the best examples of unique plants and animals in our state through private means. With that theme John Egbert, state director, gave a long and varied program in Roswell, Eastern New Mexico Medical Center dining room October 11th at 7:30. John's enthusiasm along with a great variety of slides covering accomplishments and aims of his organization; interesting, rare and endangered plant and animal species; and beautiful scenic views in New Mexico made a strong appeal for conservation and an appreciation for organizations such as the National Nature Conservancy.

-G.F.

John Egbert, state director of the New Mexico Nature Conservancy is available to meet with local chapters. Contact him at The Nature Conservancy, 610 Gold Ave. SW, Box 1846, Albuquerque NM 87103.

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