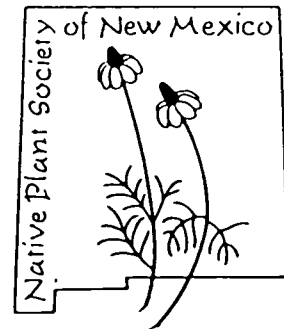


Newsletter

Native Plant Society of New Mexico



January/February, 1985

Volume X, No. 1

Calendar

- Jan. -- Las Cruces Chapter will have a planning meeting for 1985 programs.
- Jan. 2 Albuquerque Chapter will host Judith Phillips who will give a program on plant propagation.
- Jan. 16 Santa Fe Chapter will meet at St. John's College, Lab Bldg., Room 118 at 7:30 p.m. Bill Isaacs, former director of the Heritage Program, will give a presentation on "Mushrooms of New Mexico".
- Jan. 28 Santa Fe Chapter joins the Sierra Club in a botany walk. Meet in front of the P.E.R.A. Bldg. at 9:00 a.m. Contact Iris David, 988-1709 for further details.
- Feb. 6 Albuquerque Chapter: Program to be announced.
- Feb. 13 Las Cruces Chapter: Details announced later.
- Feb. 20 Santa Fe Chapter will meet at St. John's College, Lab Bldg., Room 118 at 7:30 p.m. Roger Peterson will provide a program on Alpine plants.
- Feb. 21 Southeast Chapter will have a reorganizational and 1985 planning session at RAC, 807 N. Missouri, Roswell, 7:30 p.m. Members and visitors are urged to submit ideas for future programs. Let us know your druthers. If time permits, George and Myrtle Finley will make a short slide presentation of Alaska wildflowers and scenes. If enough persons are interested, Dr. Jerry Ainsworth has agreed to teach a five-week basic botany course beginning in March which will include lab work using fresh wildflower specimens. Let your chapter contact person know if you will attend.

President's Message

This is the beginning of a new year and another term for me as President of the Society. My thanks to you and to our state board members. A special thank you is in order to Phyllis Hughes, who retired from the board this year. While we'll miss her at our board meetings, we hope she'll continue to be an active member. A welcome to our newest board member, Tom Wootten, and a welcome back to all of the returning members, Iris David, Jean Dodd, Lisa Johnston, Judith Phillips and Frances Szeman. Your hard work and time is appreciated. I think everyone will agree with me that this year we were very fortunate to secure a very dedicated

and talented couple, George and Myrtle Finley of Roswell, as our newsletter editors. Thanks to them and to Lisa and Judith, a smooth transition occurred in the transfer of the editorship of our newsletter. I'd like to extend a special appreciation to the Finleys for volunteering their time to our society. The dedication and volunteer spirit of all of your board members makes this organization work. But we can't do it all. If you have any spare time, there are always things you can do to help out, many of which don't require an extensive knowledge of native plants. Your help is always appreciated.

Ted Hodoba

Unlike the National Council of Garden Clubs, Audubon Society, Sierra Club and similar long established societies, the several western states' native plant societies have not the unity, discipline or clout that results from a strong central organization.

Probably the biggest fringe benefits for editor(s) of the Newsletter to enjoy are the exchange publications from other state native plant societies.

Some of these keep emotionally charged up about threatened species. Some seem mainly field trip enthusiasts. Some clamor for more legislation. Some take a watchdog stance toward custodial state and federal agencies. Some make a brief attempt to be a technical journal. Some make an effort to cover and respond to all member interests.

But common to all these publications are the featured Calendar and Chapter Reports. These are what Tom Wootten

called the tie that binds us together.

We wish this information flowed in freely and on time. For many good reasons it sometimes doesn't. Because we try to have the Calendar and Reports as complete as possible, paste-up of the Newsletter may be delayed until we get this information. And that may mean not getting to the printer on schedule.

We are not talking deadlines. We are asking that the schedules and reports be in the mail by the tenth of the month last listed on your current Newsletter masthead.

This request is because an overall five-day delay in mail delivery is not unusual. But even if the report is a little late, do mail it; if very late, phone it. If the regular reporter can't attend a meeting or send the report for any reason, please assist or volunteer to cover for him/her.

Thanks!

George Finley

Chapter Reports

Albuquerque Chapter: At our November meeting, Reggie Fletcher, a rare plant specialist serving as Southwest regional botanist for the U.S. Forest Service, presented a program on his work in New Mexico. Mr. Fletcher manages plant populations categorized into three basic groups: endangered or threatened, nominated (plants presently under consideration for listing as endangered or threatened), and sensitive (a program under which all plants nominated or once nominated are studied for inclusion). Of the nearly 4000 taxa in New Mexico, seven are listed as endangered or threatened and three are now under nomination.

The holiday season brought with it our annual potluck dinner. After we stuffed ourselves on an incredible variety of culinary wonders, we viewed a delightful slide presentation given by Mike Kosonovich, who has done a great deal of traveling in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.

Candy Kroft-Hodoba

Las Cruces Chapter: Our final event in 1984 was a potluck supper held in November. The meeting was well attended and all enjoyed food and conversation. We were particularly pleased to have a number of our newest members present.

We are delighted to learn that the state meeting in 1985 likely will be held in Las Cruces in August. Let's all hope we get our normal summer showers and we will be able to show all some of our desert surprises. We have already discussed some field trip ideas and have come up with more trips than hours to do them in. All this to lead up to a request for ideas that might give us some priorities. If anyone from upstate knows of something they have always wanted to do or see

in Las Cruces but never had time for, let us know.

Tom Wooten

Otero/Lincoln Chapter: Much to our dismay, we had to cancel the trip to the Guadalupe because of the terrible weather throughout the southern part of the state at the scheduled time. I hope we managed to let everybody know that was planning to attend.

The Extension Service sponsored a program by Jim Sais, Extension Urban Horticulturist, in November on Natural Landscaping. Jim said they have been having trouble with the color plates for the new bulletin to be put out by the Extension Service dedicated to Bill Mayfield. They should be out soon and we hope all chapters will get in touch with their Extension offices to find out when they will be available. The bulletin will give a description of native plants and is co-authored by R. F. Hooks, Lisa Johnston, Judith Phillips and Jim Sais. It's free.

A rough schedule for next year includes slides in February, Guadalupe in March, the new wild city park in April, Plant Sale on May 11, Three Rivers in June, Arabella in July, edible potluck and the state meeting in August, BLM land on the McGregor Range in September, and Rhodes Canyon in October.

Jean Dodd

Santa Fe Chapter: Our November 14th field trip was called off because of rain.

At our regular November meeting Steve Breck gave a most interesting program on cacti and succulents grown in South Africa. This gave us the opportunity to view succulents not seen in this country. Many were most unusual, some having very thin wirelike stems yet producing surprisingly colorful blooms two to three inches in diameter.

(continued) 3

(Chapter reports, continued)

Steve also commented on the terrain bordering the Indian Ocean--cold and clammy weather one side and hot and humid on the other. This resulted in vast varieties of succulents found in both areas.

Dovie Thomas

Southeast Chapter: We met on November 15 at the Roswell Adult Recreational Center. The guest speaker for the evening was Clay Barnhill, petroleum geologist. You may wonder what a petroleum geologist might have to say to a native plant group, but his slide presentation of his trip to China (as a member of a group of American petroleum geologists) needed no rationalization. His delightful descriptions of each slide kept the attention of each member riveted. Included were discussions of the potential oil production of China, which promises to play an important future role in the world energy supply. One highlight was his boat trip through one of the most famous areas in the world of karst topography, where the scenery was spectacular. Clay's enthusiasm for his chosen profession enhanced one of our Chapter's most entertaining programs.

Mary Peckinpugh



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A hearty welcome to the new members who joined NPS September through December:

Albuquerque Chapter

- James and Molly Baker
- Ed Lowrance
- Ralph & Sheran Marron
- Mary Searles

Las Cruces Chapter

- Sandra Anderson
- Joni Catlett
- Fernando & Carol Reta
- David Richman
- Susan Armentrout
- Nancy Freund
- Jeffrey & Jane Harvey
- Elbert & Barbara Jaycox
- William & Skjaldvaar Lyle
- Kenneth & Dorothy McCorkle
- William & Lewcile Nolen
- Patty Page
- Louise Reiber
- Hersel & Arlene Richardson
- Katherine Smalley
- Lance & Joan Smith
- Michael Tifford
- Clyde & Juanita Treat
- Ellen Weeks

Otero/Lincoln Chapter

- Floyd & Patricia Nott
- Robert & Katherine Jenness

Santa Fe Chapter

- Shirley Roche
- Ellen Thompson

New Mexico at large

- Brother John, Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu

Out of State

- Connie Green, Ryerwood, Wash.
- Eric Johnson, Cathedral City, Calif.



Propagation Notes: Digital Aerobics

By Judith Phillips



January and February are lack-luster gardening months. The pleasure of a winter respite from yardwork is wearing thin. Seed catalogs offer some consolation, but that green thumb needs flexing. What's a gardener to do?

We're approaching prime time for taking hardwood cuttings. Sharpen your shears and prepare the soil. Timing is important. Take the cuttings about six to eight weeks before buds begin to swell. Russian olives are early and ready to cut in early February, forestiera later in the month and desert willow, a heat lover, is best cut in late March. You want the cuttings in the ground long enough to initiate roots before budbreak, but not so long that they deteriorate in cold, wet soil before they are ready for action.

Since many avid gardeners personify efficiency, you'll find them thinning and shaping their shrubbery, salvaging cutting material as they prune. Four to six inch sections of last year's growth, of the greatest girth possible, cut just above a bud at the top and below a bud at the base, are ideal hardwood cuttings.

Although there are several methods of treating the cuttings, including cold storage in damp perlite or bundling inverted until calloused, I gravitate toward the easiest method, especially since it works as well as any other. Insert the cuttings vertically, growing tip up, directly into a prepared bed outdoors, where they will remain throughout the growing season. The tip of the cutting should be just below the soil's surface. Many arid land natives root easily from hardwood cuttings

as long as the planting bed is well drained and kept dry until the soil warms and growth begins. Pure sand or compost thinned with sand or pumice, tilled to homogenize and aerate, are the best rooting media.

The use of rooting hormones yield better results overall, but is unnecessary on Russian olives, desert willow, forestiera, clematis or woodbine. Restrain the urge to pull up the cuttings to check for new roots or sprinkle the cuttings because you need to garden. Your work is done until soil temperatures rise and buds start sprouting. As top growth begins, fertilize lightly with an all-purpose plant food. Since I am growing in very sandy soil, I prefer to work time-release fertilizer into the soil surface. Scratching the fertilizer into the top few inches further aerates the medium without disturbing new roots forming four to six inches below the surface. Keep the bed moist, but never soggy.

Your new plants can be transplanted into the landscape in the fall. Aside from having a front row seat at one of those horticultural miracles that keeps a gardener in awe, there are practical advantages to propagating by hardwood cuttings. Particularly choice specimens with intense flower color, prolific flower or fruit production, exceptional drought, heat, insect or disease resistance can be reliably duplicated. If you need a lot of plants for windbreaks or screening, you can't beat the price. So get ready. Stick out those thumbs and flex, two, three....

Nematodes? Free Soil Test

A laboratory examination of soil and plant roots is often needed to detect the presence of nematodes. This examination can presently be done free of charge in New Mexico.

Soil sampling can now be used to test for nematode injury. Nematodes are microscopic worms, too small to be seen with the naked eye, that attack the root system of plants.

Few plants, including fruit trees, turf and ornamentals, are immune from these destructive pests, according to Emroy Shannon, Extension plant pathologist at New Mexico State University.

Galls, tiny lesions, stubby roots or complete loss of feeder roots are symptoms of nematode damage. Plants affected by root knot nematodes will have knots or galls on the roots.

"Don't confuse root knot galling with nitrogen nodules attached to the surface of leguminous roots such as beans, peanuts and alfalfa," Shannon cautions.

The best time to sample is during the summer and early fall. Growers who haven't tested their soil this year can still get an indication of potential problem by sending a soil sample to the Nematode Testing Lab, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Box 3BA, NMSU, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

To make sure the soil or root sample is representative of a given area, and that the nematodes arrive at the testing lab in good condition, follow the suggestions given in, "How to Check for Nematode Problems", an Extension publication available at county Extension offices.

There are also several ways to control nematodes. These methods are listed in another publication, "Control of Nematodes". This publication is also available at local Extension offices.

Excerpted from a release sent by the Cooperative Extension Services, NMSU.

NPSNM Officers for 1985

President--

Ted Hodoba

Vice-President--

Lisa Johnston

Recording Secretary--

Frances Szeman

Treasurer--

Jean Dodd

Membership Secretary--

Judith Phillips

Board Members--

Iris David

Tom Wootten

The name Tamarix is derived from Tamores, now Tambro, River which is on the border of the Pyrnees where the Tamarix was first discovered.

Euphorbia came from Euphorbus, the physician to the king of Mauretania.

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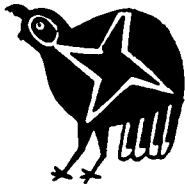


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Other Interested family members: _____

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___ Growing for resale
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___ Newsletter ___ Youth projects
___ Organize new chapter
___ Membership drive
___ Other (please specify)

How would you describe your level of
expertise? What areas would you be
willing to help with?

Are you a member of an organization
with related purposes (Garden Club,
NM Wildflower Association, etc.)?

In early August the Alamogordo Garden Club Council sponsored a "Get Acquainted in Otero County" day at the local shopping mall. All clubs were invited to participate. You wouldn't believe how many interests and hobbies were represented--filled the hall in the mall! Our Otero NPS Chapter had a display of identification books for sale, membership application blanks, old Newsletters to give away, plus a lovely bouquet of wildflowers so people could look at the real thing. We gathered a full page of names, phone numbers and addresses of people interested in native plants. Hopefully this will be an annual event. The thinking behind the planning was that people come and go so much these days that there are probably a lot of people that don't know such clubs exist. Also when most of them are represented in one place, you can get an idea of just how many fun things there are to do in the area. Other areas might like to try something similar.

Jean Dodd

This past summer while I was in the Zion National Park area of southern Utah I was taken with a plant I identified as Shepherdia rotundifolia, or silvery buffalo berry. The sun reflecting off the plant's silvery leaves seemed to make them appear always in bloom. If anyone has had experience with the cultivation of this shrub or has a few seeds I could work with I would sure like to hear from you.

Also on the subject of native plants in landscapes, from a visit with Jeff Hervey, one of our newest members, we learned that H&H Wholesale Nursery here in Las Cruces plans to start growing some of our natives. Jeff is in charge of propagation at H&H. Hopefully more of the retail nurseries will be carrying more of the natives as they become more available. We wish H&H every success in this expansion of their operations.

Tom Wootten

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