



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

September & October 1991

Volume XVI Number 5

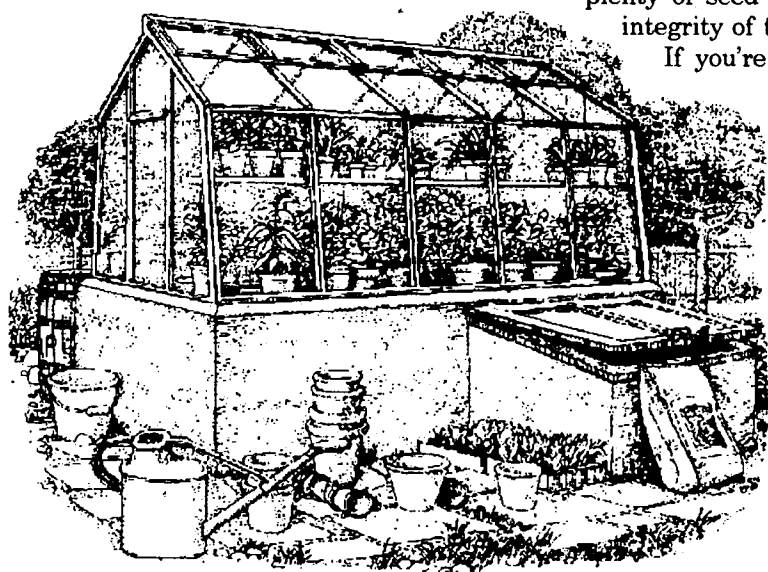
NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES: PLAYING THE ODDS

Judith Phillips
Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm

People in the native plant nursery business are compulsive gamblers. We'd just rather do our betting in the open air and sunshine than in the smoke and glitz of a Las Vegas casino. Uncertainty is the one constant in this occupation. Production growing implies some degree of uniformity. In more traditional horticultural pursuits, there are fluctuating temperatures and pathogens to contend with, but crops can be planned quite precisely. You want 10,000 petunias in April? You buy 12,000 seeds in

December, sow them in a greenhouse in January, set the thermostat and add water (and fertilizer, and more water...). Almost every horticultural crop has cookbook instructions. Arid land natives offer some interesting challenges.

First is the matter of obtaining the raw materials. Seeds of some species are commercially available....sometimes. More often, the source lies 30 miles up a dirt road and 3 miles up an arroyo. That's not the problem, that's a fringe benefit. The problem is timing. Getting there when the seed is ripe in sufficient quantity to make a few mistakes, grow some plants, and still leave plenty of seed to maintain the integrity of the native stand.



If you're lucky you have friends who know you'll forget Littleleaf Sumac and collect the seed for you. Likewise, many of our best "new" plants began as gifts from friends wanting to share their favorites. (Another major fringe benefit of this business is the excellent

company we keep.)
So we have the seeds, those tiny pellets of potential, a full house in hand, right? Not quite. Overcoming the dormancies, learning the temperature and watering preferences for the germination and sustained growth of individual species comes through trial and error (Ode to the Millions Who Have Died...). Sometimes we get lucky and the first efforts pay off (that must have happened to someone...). It doesn't necessarily mean that the same treatment will work the next time. For years Cliffrose *Cowania mexicana* has been an easy crop to germinate. With cold moist storage for 3 months, the seed has always germinated with wild abandon in early April. The problem has been protecting first year seedlings from freeze burn in winter. For the past two years the seed hasn't sprouted. Is the seed bad? (Rule 1: Always blame the seed. It's not usually the problem, but it might make you feel better.) Even if there was a Ball Redbook for commercial growers of native plants that gave accurate accounts of seemingly consistent results, the nature of the plants we choose to grow assures us a permanent seat at the roulette table. We are dealing with plants whose survival strategies include erratic germination to assure a reserve of seed as insurance against an equally erratic climate.

Once the propagating problems have been at least partially resolved, the question becomes how garden worthy is the plant? We owe our customers the information they need to grow the plants with a measure of success. With plants

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EDITORS' MESSAGE

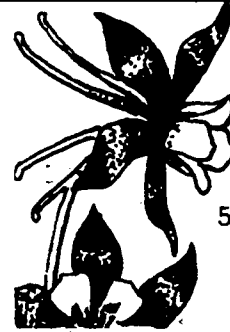
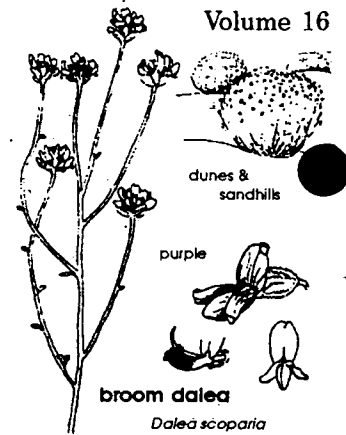
We hope to see many of you in Carlsbad. The new chapter there is going all out to see that it will be a memorable weekend. We have been going through the chapter archives and have weeded many old copies of our NEWSLETTER. These will be available, on a first come basis to anyone who wants them. Some go back to our earliest years.

The November-December issue of the NEWSLETTER will be dedicated to landscaping with Native Plants. Please send us original articles or reprints of articles you think are particularly worthwhile. To date we have received a grand total of one article. We want this to be an issue which can be reprinted and useful to all homeowners in New Mexico.

You may submit any article that you feel will be of interest to other NPS members. Good suggestions could be articles dealing with specific plants or with specific landscaping situations. Also you might want to recount special experiences, successes, failures etc. which you have had in your landscape.

Tim McKimmie
Rick Castetter

Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use his wonderful drawings from *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, second edition, in our newsletter



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The Newsletter is published six times per year by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species.

Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges and a wide selection of books available at discount.

We also encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

We maintain a register of business and professional people who are members and can supply information and services related to native plants. To be added to this roster or to request information, contact the Membership Secretary.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost \$40 / year.

Schedule of Membership Fees

Dues are \$10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of \$25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 443 Live Oak Loop, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to the editors. Deadlines for the next two newsletters are October 10 and December 15.

OFFICERS

President	Bob Reeves	523-1806
	475 La Colonia, Las Cruces 88005	
Vice-President	Mimi Hubby	983-1658
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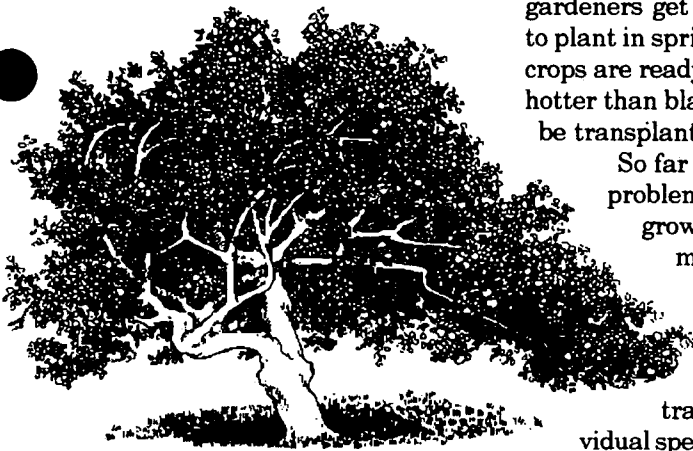
Melanie Florence	525-3529	Rt. 1, Box 711, La Mesa	88044
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	Ron Flemke	538-3498
Carlsbad	Mark Rosacker	885-6117
	Mary Helen Brunt	885-4532



continued from page 1

from wild collected seeds, the only way to find out is to grow them out in as many different situations as possible, using where the plant occurs in the wild as a guide, and evaluate plant performance over a few years. If the seed is from a southern source, will the plants be cold hardy? Last winter left few illusions (and no tender plants). If the seed is from northern provinces, how heat tolerant will the plants be? The past few summers have left few illusions there either. There is also the matter of how potentially invasive a plant may be. When the research and development stage is winding down (it is never really over... these plants are full of surprises), the adventure in sales begins.

One of the major problems in marketing native plants is timing. If plants are being grown under close to natural conditions, i.e. not artificially heated and pumped full of nitrogen so that they nearly shoot out of the pot (or die trying...), we don't have a green and blooming product ready to sell when most

gardeners get that overwhelming urge to plant in spring. By the time our main crops are ready to sell, it's summer and hotter than blazes. Not the best time to be transplanting?

So far we've been attacking the problem in two ways: trying to grow more so that there are more plants available all the time, and trying to educate ourselves and our customers regarding the best siting and best transplanting time for individual species. Both approaches still need work. It seems we can't grow enough plants. The more people see them, the more they want them. These born again weeds are, after all, exceptional plants, and there is no way of telling which plants will enjoy a sudden burst of popularity.

As we've been pressed to produce more, we've extended our transplanting activity, beginning earlier in the spring and working longer into the summer. After two years of trial, there's no doubt that most of the plants we grow respond better in the heat of the summer (we're barerooting thousands of seedlings in 100° F July heat which is contrary to any common sense I thought I had). The late February- early March transplants, even those species such as Gayfeather *Liatris punctata*, Threelobed Sumac *Rhus trilobata*, and New Mexico Olive *Forestiera neomexicana* should prefer cooler transplant temperatures, but are slower to root out into the containers than those transplanted a month later. Summer transplanting is done early in the morning, between 6:30 and 9:00

a.m., when the evapotranspiration rate is lowest. Transplanting is done in the shade (leafy shade if possible, since moisture evaporating off foliage cools the air more than shade cloth alone can), and transplants are watered consistently. While I'm not recommending that the average homeowner, whose day does not begin and end in the field like ours does, plant their entire landscape bareroot in July, many plants including Broom Dalea *Dailea scoparia*, Cliffrose, Desert Willow *Chilopsis linearis*, most Penstemons, Threadleaf and Fringe Sage *Artemisia filifolia* and *A. frigida*, Joint Fir *Ephedra* species, Fernbush *Chamaebatia millefolium*, Littleleaf Sumac *Rhus microphylla* and Giant Four O'clock *Mirabilis multiflora* all transplant well from containers in hot weather if treated carefully. Common to all these plants are their preference for well-drained soil and their heat tolerance. Transplanting them in cool weather increases the risk of overwatering. Let your own experience be your guide.

We have chosen to forego the protection of a greenhouse, and seed, field grow and transplant to containers outdoors, which is unusual in the nursery business. The decision is based on a desire to produce climate adapted plants that will establish easily on harsh sites. We use row covers and shade cloth to buffer ambient weather conditions somewhat, but we want the weakest of the lot to expire. Better in our seedbeds than in the garden. Betting on the weather is the ultimate gamble, but then we're holding the wild cards...native plants.

POSTER REPORT

1000 Posters were delivered to Mr. B. K. Graham of the State Education Offices for distribution to all the Elementary, Middle and High Schools in the state in April. If anyone knows of schools that have not received theirs yet, they should contact him. Sales are going well all over the state in stores and National Parks. Jean Dodd reports that the cost of the posters was \$10,346.04 and that we sold \$9,551.25 so far. It shouldn't be long before we start showing a profit. Contact any of the following committee members if you know where you can sell some.

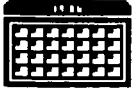
- Bev Grady Albuquerque 275-0798
- Jean Dodd Alamogordo 434-3041
- Lisa Johnston Artesia 748-1046
- Bob Reeves Las Cruces 523-1806

- Luci Nolan Silver City 388-5485
- Ann Mehaffy Santa Fe 983-3784
- Ellen Wilde Santa Fe 982-1406

Niki Threlkeld is in Santa Fe for the summer and is working on paintings for the Summer and Fall poster. She would welcome anyone bringing fresh flowers (common, easily found roadside flowers!) to be included on it. 988-3172 for the summer, 521-4077 later in the year in Las Cruces.

El Pasoans can see, admire and buy the Native Plant Society of New Mexico poster "Wildflowers of New Mexico-Spring and Summer" and its accompanying explanation sheet at:

The UTEP Museum
or
Prints Charming, 7040L North Mesa 584-3808



CALENDAR

Otero

27, 28, 29 Sept. - A three day trip to the lower Gila Box with Charley Pase and Paul Gordon, and, hopefully, some guides from the Silver City Chapter. They are certainly all welcome! Meet at noon at the Y of highways 70 and 90 which is just north of Lordsburg on Friday.

12 October - Grapevine Canyon - Meet at the south end of the Alamogordo Holiday Inn parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring a PORTABLE LUNCH. Only trucks and 4 wheel drives on the trip. John Morton is making arrangements with the military and the Forest Service. Don Tribble is checking out the roads. We will have to reschedule if there is any rain around that time.

2 November - Potluck at noon followed by annual business meeting to plan the 1992 schedule. Home of Ad and George Hanawalt. Turn west just after, or north, of the 50 mph sign at the south end of Tularosa. Go to dead end. Turn left (south). Go 1.5 miles until you cross the RR tracks. Hang a hard right after the tracks onto Hanawalt's land. BYO CHAIRS. Also bring your personal

calendar, something to write on, and ideas about where you would like to go and what you would like to do.

Gila

Sunday Sept. 8, 9 a.m. - Field trip to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range. This is a repeat trip from last year that was poorly attended because of rain. Railroad Canyon is off Highway 152 east of San Lorenzo. Trip leader: Jay Hammel (538-2859).

Thursday Sept. 26, 7p.m. - Monthly meeting at the Carter House. Harold Bray will give a program about Soil Conservation.

Sunday Oct. 6, 8 a.m. - Field trip to McKnight Mountain and Mimbres Lake. Forest Road #152 crosses the Mimbres River and climbs to the crest of the Black Range which it follows for a couple of miles. A trail continues for another three miles to Mimbres Lake. This area is heavily populated with aspens and the view from the crest is great. Trip leader: Deb Swetnam (388-3086).

Thursday Oct. 24, 7 p.m. - Monthly meeting at the Carter House. No speaker. Business Meeting.

Albuquerque

Last minute arrival! SEE PAGE 8

Las Cruces

18 August - Afternoon field trip starting at 4:00 pm at the Pan American Center parking lot to the Solidad Rocks area.

11 September - Monthly meeting at 7:30 pm in Room 190 of NMSU Ag Building. Melanie Florence will talk on "Plant Communities in the Organ Mountains."

15 September - Field trip to The Old Refuge.

9 October - Monthly meeting 7:30 pm in Room 190 of NMSU Ag Building. Barbara Sallach will talk on "Historical Vegetative Changes in New Mexico."

13 October - Field trip to Blue Mesa.

Santa Fe

Trips and meetings are being planned for September and October but details were not set at the time the Newsletter was being put together. Meetings will be as usual, the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30, downstairs in the Lab Building (left from the Visitor's parking area) of St. John's College. Visitors from other areas and prospective members are always welcome to meetings and field trips. Call Chapter Contacts for further information.

VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH

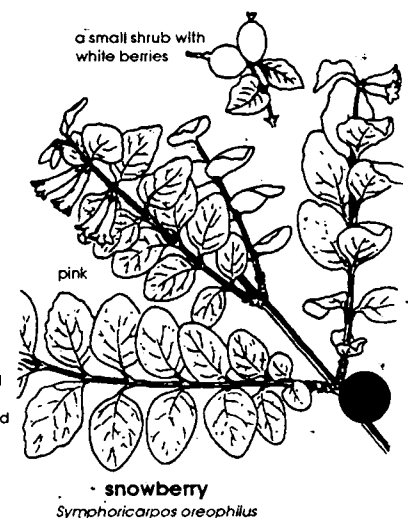
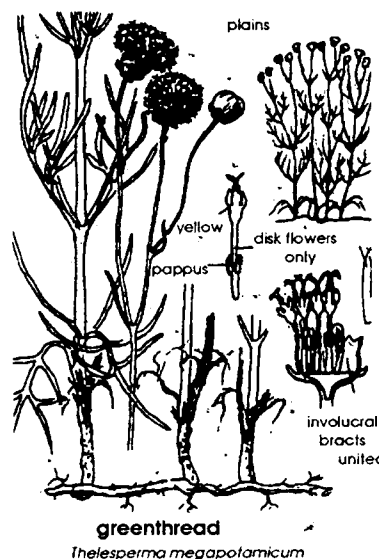
How many times is lack of communications a source of problems for us? Those interested in conservation are well aware of the need to share information, especially in a state as large as New Mexico. Realizing this, some time ago Ted Hodoba, state conservation chairman, planted the seeds and initiated a method by which individual chapters could network with each other. Volunteers to participate in the network were sought from each chapter. Local as well as statewide concerns and achievements are being shared. Current networkers are:

Ted Hodoba - Chairman
Ron Flemke and Deb Swetnam - Gila
Roger Peterson - Santa Fe
Pat Williams - Otero
Tom Wooten - Las Cruces

Our primary contact in Albuquerque has left the state, and another person from that area would especially be welcome. We hope to gain a representative of Carlsbad Madrone also. Then finally, we recognize that there are members who because of geographic limitations are not directly affiliated with a local chapter. Your input is encouraged as well.

All interested members are encouraged to share ideas, either through one of the contacts above or through direct participation on the Conservation Committee.

Tom Wooten



CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero-Jean Dodd

The June Otero trip was to look at and learn about the experimental programs in the Sacramento Mountain forests. In 1925 experiments were begun to study Douglas Fir, and White Fir was included in 1935. In 1975 the designation was changed to Research Natural Area and in the '80s there was a timber sale. Paul Gordon, in telling the history of the area, said he thought the area was in much better shape than it had been 50 years ago.

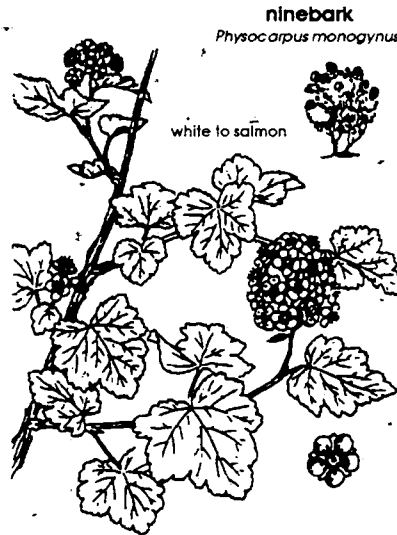
Looking at a small amount of slash, a discussion followed on the options for dealing with the debris. 1. Leave it to rot and enrich the soil. 2. Worry about fire and, therefore, clean it up. 3. Visiting Las Cruces members told us of the European practice of cleaning the forest-leaving absolutely nothing on the forest floor and taking out the debris to use.

Two days before the trip we had put on a native plant program for the Forest Service near Ruidoso where they were celebrating the 100th year of the conservation movement. The Forest Reserve began in 1891 when one man was solely responsible for a very large area. He had to send requests to Washington, D.C. even for supplies like paper clips. He had to depend on individual citizens to help carry out any program to improve the forest. The geographic area covered by the Reserve was not the same as the present Lincoln National Forest.

On the June trip we saw clumps of New Mexico Locust blooming in profusion. Pink wild roses, snowberry *Symphoricarpos oreophilus* (Ivey p. 79), Jamesia (Ivey p. 268), and Ninebark of the rose family *Physocarpus monogynus* (Ivey p. 250) were all in bloom in spite of the heat and lack of rainfall.

On 27 July Otero Chapter took an alternate trip to the Gnatkowski Ranch near Ancho. Rain had washed out roads in the area where Paul Gordon had originally planned to take us.

Mrs. Gnatkowski does a "Sheep to Shawl" demonstration which shows the process of shearing the sheep, the steps in preparing the wool as yarn, and finally the weaving. Part of this procedure was shown to us along with a house containing her looms and yarn. In the



main house she showed us her spinning wheel and reel for winding the yarn. Since she has been preparing garments for the Taos Fair we got to see the beautiful finished work that she will take. Whatever the price for the finished garment, one wonders how it would pay for the many hours spent preparing the wool. A discussion of dyes and moth-proofing techniques ended this part of our day but we spent a lot of time just marveling at the interesting house we were in. The Gnatkowskis had bought the old White Oaks Bank and used the material in it to build their own house which is filled with antiques. Everywhere you look you find something interesting to catch your attention.

On the road back to Ancho some of the plants in bloom that we saw were *Mammillaria wrightii*, Pineleaf Vervain *Verbena perennis* (see Warnock p. 191 Davis Mtns., the bright pink phlox), lots of Greenthread *Thelesperma megapotamicum* (Ivey p. 102), White Prairie Clover *Petalostemum candidum*, and many patches of Blackfoot Daisy *Melampodium leucanthum*. We saw an as yet unidentified shrub that seemed to be a kind of rabbitbrush we had not seen before. We will see.

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford, Melanie Florence

The July meeting was our annual Show and Tell. Everyone brought native plants they were unable to identify and/or plants with unusual characteristics to share with others. Melanie Florence and Jony Cockman were able to identify most of them, and there was a

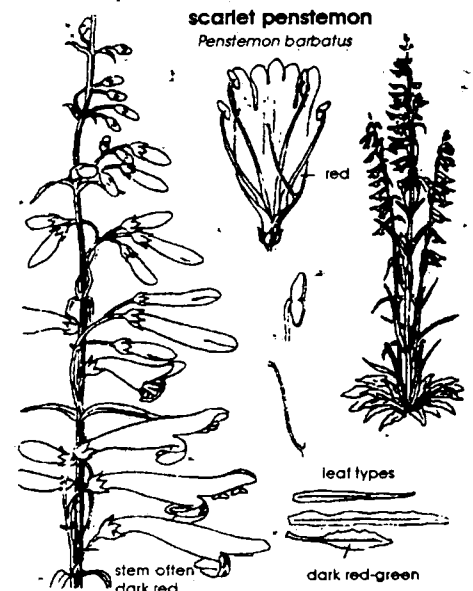
flurry of field guide page turning in this interactive meeting.

We had a delightful field trip to Emory Pass (in the Black Range) on July 14, 1991. Our first stop was a little out of the way to Animas Creek-up from Caballo Lake. It was worth it, however, to see huge Arizona Sycamores, Cottonwoods and Velvet Ash with an understory of oaks and grape vines. Very few herbs were flowering so after testing the footbridge across the creek we went to Highway 152.

The creosote bush rolling hills at the beginning of the drive on Highway 152 had a wealth of flowering herbs at the side of the road including Hog potato, Bladderpod, Filaree, Thistles, Prickly poppy and Mallows. For some of us, this was the first field trip time we have botanized after the rains so we were busy as beavers trying to identify all the plants.

Our next stop was above the desert into the grasslands outside of Hillsboro. We were rewarded with seeing (and smelling) Chocolate flower, Buffalo bur, Skeleton weed, Clammyweed, Plains-flax and Blazing star as well as some of the same plants we found below.

We ate lunch at the campground outside of Kingston which is in the Pinyon-juniper life zone. Not only were we climbing in elevation, but we had a creek (Animas Creek?) to explore. We saw the dark pink and white blossoms of Everlasting pea everywhere as well as sweet clover. Arizona walnut grows there as well as Box elder and willows. The pond above the creek had a few
(continued next page)



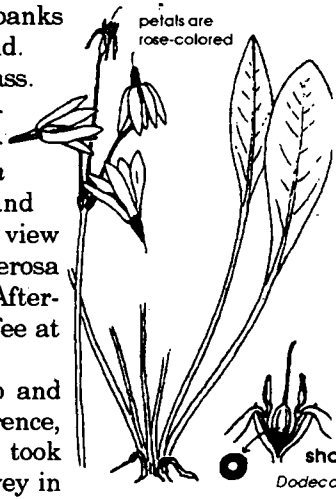
waterlilies while loosestrife and Blue-eyed grass were blooming on the banks of the stream coming into the pond.

Finally we made it to Emory Pass. Many flowers were in bloom including Yarrow, Wallflower, Lupines, Lotus sp., *Penstemon barbatus*, *Lithospermum* sp. and Buckwheat. It was nice to see the view and be among the big trees (Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and White fir). Afterward we all went for pie and coffee at Sarah's Closet in Kingston.

On July 21st and 28th Herb and Christine Ruetzel, Melanie Florence, Zeno Wicks, and Tim McKimmie took part in an endangered plant survey in the Dripping Springs area looking for the nodding cliff daisy and particular varieties of evening primrose and pin-cushion cactus found only in the Organ Mountains. The group was led by Katie Skaggs, Dripping Springs Naturalist, and included personnel of the Bureau of Land Management.

Santa Fe-Ellen Wilde

Members of the Santa Fe chapter and guests enjoyed many field trips this summer. Some were to places we have visited before and others to new locations. Arnold Keskulla was responsible for the planning and did a great job. Many thanks from all who enjoyed these trips, Arnold. Among the highlights were seeing clumps of yellow Lady's Slipper *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens*, numbering 12-17 blooms, Shooting Stars *Dodecatheon pulchellum*, several plants of *Penstemon eatonii*, a hillside of Heartleaf Arnica and several small members of the Orchid family in the Holy Ghost Campground area above Pecos; hundreds of Alpine Primroses *Primula angustifolia*, tiny Alpine Forget-me-nots *Eritricheum nanum*, Alp lilies *Lloydia serotina* and Alpine Buttercups after a rather strenuous hike up from the Santa Fe ski area to False Lake Peak; Great Blue Columbine, pink Oxa-



shooting star
Dodecatheon pulchellum

EDGE OF THE ROCKIES '91

NATIVE PLANTS AND SEEDS

FROM
THE SOUTHERN
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
TO
THE DESERT OF THE
COLORADO PLATEAU

133 HUNNA RD. BAYFIELD, CO 81122-9758

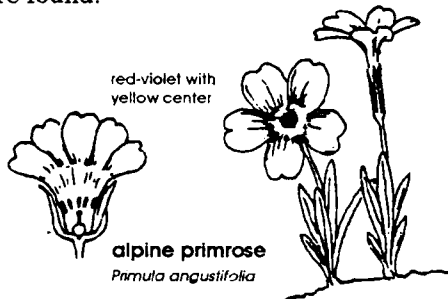
lis and tiny Spotted Saxifrage east of Pecos; glorious red-violet *Calochortus gunnisonii*, wonderfully fragrant *Monarda menthaefolia* and many kinds of edible mushrooms in the Jemez mountains.

Quite a crew helped Bob Sivinski search for *Happlopappus microcephalus* near Tres Piedras and numerous plants were found.



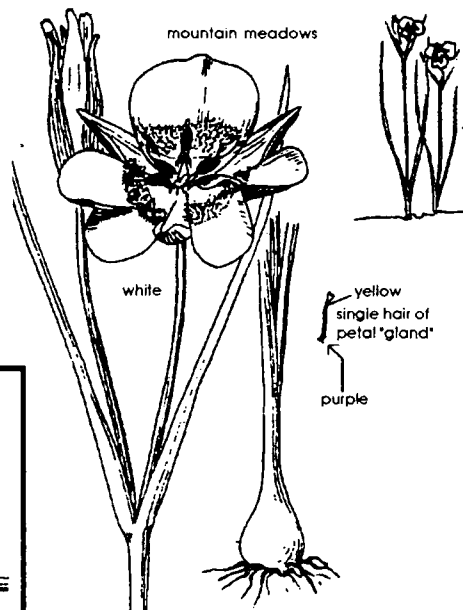
yellow

yellow lady's slipper
Cypripedium calceolus



red-violet with
yellow center

alpine primrose
Primula angustifolia



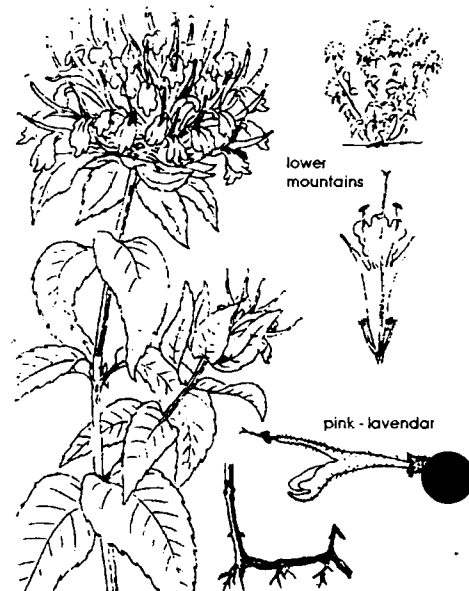
mountain meadows

white

yellow
single hair of
petal 'gland'

purple

sego lily
Calochortus gunnisonii



lower
mountains

pink - lavender

bergamot
Monarda menthaefolia

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH
P. O. Box 1163
Silver City, NM 88062

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE:

Mark Rosacker

Autumn is fast approaching, and with it comes perhaps your last opportunity this year to share in the fellowship and comradery of other New Mexico native plant enthusiasts.

This year's 1991 State Meeting will be hosted in Carlsbad, October 25-27 by our newest local affiliate, The Carlsbad Madrone Chapter. We hope that you have already made plans to attend this year's activities and take part in some very special programs. However, if you are still undecided...Let me tempt you more...

The Chihuahuan Desert, as exemplified in the Guadalupe Mountain, and Lower Pecos Regions of Southeastern New Mexico and West Texas is among the Southwest's most remote and unexplored landscapes. Beneath these mountains and desert foothills lie hidden caverns of unique and rare beauty. Among the mountains, but not as well known, lie desert jewels of equally rare and exquisite character; Living jewels...our native plants. Cacti, Yucca, and Agaves might well be expected, but tucked in among them you will find other plants perhaps unthought about, an unusual mix of Chinquapin Oak, Texas Madrone, and Big-Tooth Maple. Against the backdrop of a rugged limestone cliff-face, there is nothing more beautiful in the world than taking time to explore an October morning amid the



Texas madrone
Arbutus texana

pink

colors of fall in McKittrick Canyon. It will make you glad to be alive!

A preliminary schedule of this year's activities is as follows:

Friday, October 25 6pm-9pm

Ice-Breaker at:
Living Desert State Park
Chihuahuan Desert Videos
Wine and Appetizers
Book and Poster Sales

Saturday, October 26, 8am-2pm

Bus tour to WIPP Site and Los Medanos Natural Area
WIPP Environmental Monitoring Program. Noon meal provided courtesy of Westinghouse Electric.

2:30pm-6pm

Annual State Board Meeting at:
Park Inn International

6pm-7pm

No-Host Bar

7pm-10pm

Annual Banquet at:
Park Inn International
Mystery Speaker
Early to Bed.

Sunday, October 27, 7am-2pm

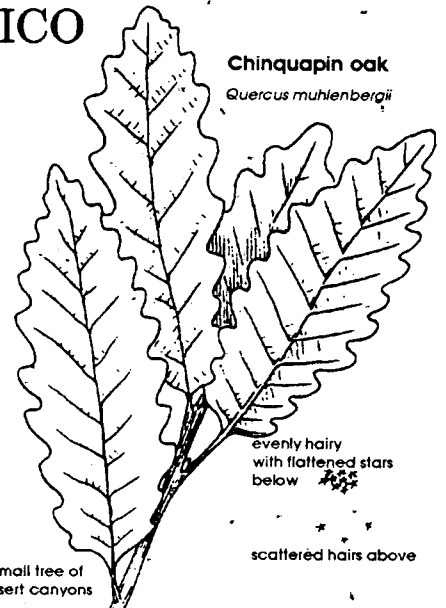
Early to Rise!
Special "Early Bird" Bus tour to McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. Bring your hiking boots, Field Guides, and a Canteen. Once we get there we walk. Don't Forget Your Camera!
Return to Carlsbad, N.M. by 2pm for an early start toward home.

Pre-Registration Fee: \$20.00 / person

After October 15, 1991: \$25.00 / person

Fees include: Annual Banquet,
Bus transportation to and from Los Medanos Natural Area,
Bus transportation to and from McKittrick Canyon.

If you are planning to attend this year's meeting, you are urged to register early. To Pre-Register, please send us your Name and address accompanied by a personal check or money order. Checks should be made payable to the Carlsbad Madrone Chapter, NPS-NM. Mail all



Chinquapin oak
Quercus muhlenbergii

evenly hairy
with flattened stars
below

scattered hairs above

a small tree of
desert canyons

Pre-Registrations and inquiries to the above, C/O Living Desert State Park, P.O. Box 100, Carlsbad, N.M. 88220.

*Remember the October 15
Pre-Registration Deadline!*

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has graciously offered to assist us in making the annual meeting truly one to remember. Registration packets providing additional information and details will be provided each registrant. Packets will be available at the Living Desert State Park Friday evening, and prior to departure to the WIPP Site Saturday morning.

Carlsbad has many fine accommodations available year-round to area visitors. However, you may wish to make your reservations early at the Park Inn International, 3706 National Parks Hwy., Carlsbad, N.M. 88220. Many of the activities, including bus departures and returns, Annual Board Meeting, and Annual Banquet have been scheduled for this facility. There are many other fine motels within the immediate vicinity in the event that reservations should become unavailable. We are looking forward to cool autumn weather, and the opportunity of meeting YOU in Carlsbad this fall.

Telephone inquiries may be made to the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce at (505) 887-6516 or to the Living Desert State Park at (505) 887-5516. Toll free reservations at the Park Inn International: 1-800-321-2861.

LIVESTOCK FACTSHEET

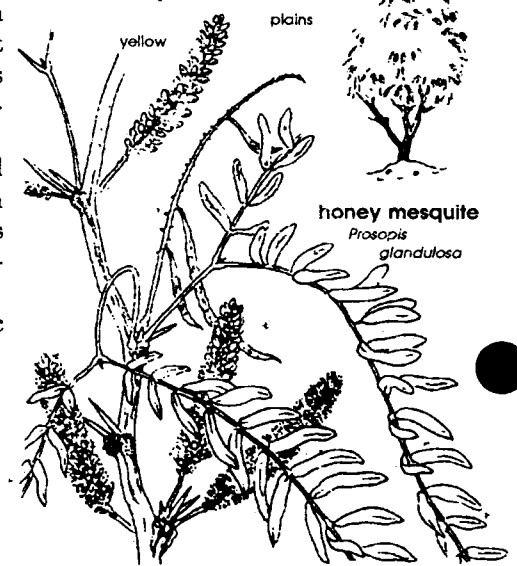
Editors' note: We cannot check the veracity of these "facts". It is reprinted from *Sego Lily*, the Newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society, Vol 13, No. 6, Nov/Dec 1990.

According to government and private sources, livestock ranching on our Western public lands:

1. Utilizes roughly 75% of Western federal, state, and local publicly owned lands (41 % of the West).
2. Has destroyed more native vegetation than any other land use.
3. Has destroyed more wildlife and wildlife habitat than any other land use.
4. Has caused more soil erosion and soil damage than any other land use.
5. Has destroyed more riparian area than any other land use.
6. Has destroyed, depleted, and polluted more natural water sources than any other land use.
7. Has caused more ruinous flooding than any other land use.

8. Has caused more invasions of harmful animal "pests" and non-native vegetation than any other land use.
9. Has eliminated more beneficial natural fire than any other land use.
10. Has been responsible for more developments on public lands and environmental damage from developments thereon than any other land use.
11. Produces only 3% of this country's beef.
12. Includes roughly 30,000 permittees — only 16% of Western stockmen, only 2% of U.S. stockmen.
13. Cost federal permittees only \$1.86/AUM (Animal Unit Month) in 1989 (a high year)—about 1/5th fair market value, causing, in effect, an annual loss of at least \$50 million to the U.S. Treasury.
14. Causes a total net federal, state, and local taxpayer loss of roughly one billion dollars annually, if all negative impacts from public lands ranching are considered.
15. Causes a total net private economic

- loss of roughly one billion dollars annually.
16. Produces an estimated \$550 million in livestock annually—far less than what taxpayers spend on the industry.
 17. Rarely contributes more than 5% gross to rural economies and actually detracts from many local economies if lost recreation opportunities, depleted natural resources, wasted local tax monies, damages to private property, etc., are considered.
 18. Detracts more from other uses of public lands than any other land use.
 19. Has caused more political and social problems associated with Western public lands than any other land use.



Many range scientists believe that the introduction of livestock over a century ago caused mesquite to spread from Texas throughout most of New Mexico, changing much of our native landscape!

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P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Albuquerque Calendar

24 & 25 August - Plant Sale! 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Garden Center

19 September, 7:30 p.m. - Meet. at the west entrance of the Biology building at NMU for a program on the herbarium. The speaker is Tim Lowry.

3 October, 7:30 p.m. - (our regular day at the regular location: Garden Center). Program: The benefits of composting, and using worms in gardens and in landfills! The speakers are Richard and Cathy Jacobs of R. C. Wiggle Worm.

