



## PLANNING SESSION HELD AT SEVILLETA L.T.E.R.

*The Native Plant Society held a planning session February 8 and 9, 1997. This session was partially a result of the inability to treat issues in-depth at the twice yearly board meetings. The University of New Mexico's excellent research facility at Sevilleta, between Albuquerque and Socorro was the scene of a productive "retreat" or planning meeting for NPSNM officers and representatives from all six Chapters. Many participants arrived Friday evening and had ample time for socializing. There were morning, afternoon, and evening sessions on Saturday. Then a Sunday morning meeting and wrap-up of the ideas and issues discussed. Strategic planning has become an important tool for business and academia as well as non-profit organizations in order to answer the question "What do we want our future to be like?" The following transcript is intended to provide working ideas and guidelines for our future. NPSNM members are invited to comment to board members or the Newsletter.*

**Participants:** Mary Whitmore, NPS President, Santa Fe Chapter, Jack Carter, NPS Vice President, Gila Chapter, John Stockert, NPS Recording Secretary, Otero Chapter, Babs Peck, NPS Treasurer, Santa Fe Chapter, Mary Goodman, NPS Membership Chair, Santa Fe Chapter, Tim McKimmie, NPS Publications Chair, Las Cruces Chapter, Dean Ricer, NPS Conservation Chair, Carlsbad Chapter, Ellen Wilde, NPS Poster Chair, Santa Fe Chapter, Greg Magee, NPS Board Member, Las Cruces Chapter, Sandra Lynn, NPS Board Member, Albuquerque Chapter, Mary Helen Brunt, NPS Board Member, Carlsbad Chapter, Martha Carter, Gila Chapter, Alice Anderson, Las Cruces Chapter, Jean Heflin, Albuquerque Chapter, Lucy Beals, Albuquerque Chapter, Tom Wootten, Las Cruces Chapter, Jim Peck, Recorder, Santa Fe Chapter.  
 Unable to attend: Jean Dodd, Otero Chapter; Don Tribble, NPS Board Member, Otero Chapter, Mimi Hubby, NPS Past President, Santa Fe Chapter, Bob Sivinski, Santa Fe Chapter, Lisa Johnson, NPS Book Sales Chair, Carlsbad Chapter, Karen Lightfoot, Albuquerque Chapter.

### Your Native Plant Society Today

The first session began with brief remarks by President Mary Whitmore. In our 20th year, she said, we have 504 members and six Chapters; Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Gila, Las Cruces, Otero and Santa Fe. Most of the original members are still active. We celebrated our 10th anniversary with a Native Plant Symposium in

Albuquerque, and copies of that paper are still available from Lisa Johnston. In the years since NPS was founded, there has been a tremendous increase in awareness of native plants and their uses. Native plants are increasingly available from nurseries. With 20 years behind us, Whitmore concluded, it is time to rethink our goals and direction.

### NPS Goals

Vice President Jack Carter said to the group, "Dream out loud: How do we conserve the flora of New Mexico? Let us make a wish list for the years ahead and a road map to help us get there, and look at our strengths and weaknesses but not impose limitations. Who or what can we challenge at every level to improve and protect the flora of New Mexico?" Many of the 18 participants were assigned Discussion Topics to chair during the coming sessions. Kick-off topic was:

### Chapter Goals and Concerns

Problems and opportunities surfaced immediately when it was noted that we need more *active* members. Attendance at meetings is often poor. Perhaps Chapters should vary both time and day, improve meeting room comfort and the quality of presentations/talks, and research members' interest in topics to be covered. Programs, field trips, speakers should be scheduled for the coming year and a printed schedule distributed to all. It would be useful to establish a telephone tree in order to phone Chapter members before each meeting or field trip, to improve attendance. Show and tell: members could be encouraged to bring a plant, soil sample, weed or exotic to meetings to stimulate discussion. Speakers can give advice on gardening, always an important attraction. Meetings are social occasions and can be made more enjoyable with refreshments and/or pot luck meals.

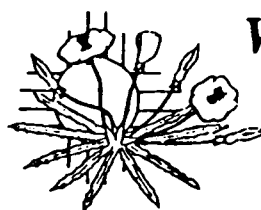
Fund raising is an essential part of membership. Native plant sales, book sales, and poster sales bring in funds and provide meaningful activities as well as an opportunity to recruit new members. Chapter dues generally cover the cost of mailings and postage. Chapters can present awards to local people or groups (\$100, \$50 typically) to encourage use of native plants. Chapters can provide judges for science fairs, offer to do presentations on water use reduction, and write letters to suggest ways to use native plants to save water. County Agents can usually provide information about native plants

and problem exotics and may have speakers available for meetings. Chapters should have lists of native plant gardens and their locations (see *Newsletter XXII* (3):8). NPS needs a handsome, educational display unit that is transportable, to get our message out at fairs, in museums, bank lobbies, hotels, and at various events. The Albuquerque chapter has one built by a professional exhibits company. Chapters can take part in the Adopt-A-Highway program in their area, with a sign identifying NPS Chapter. Members do the planting and up-keep work. Chapters should also send articles on native plants, water and habitat conservation to the local press, as well as announcements of meetings and field trips.

### Publications and Related Projects

It was suggested that the Native Plant Society needs a Vice President for Publications and a Committee with a budget to review and select projects to present to the NPS Board. Publications offer an area of great opportunity for NPS statewide and at Chapter level. NPS should be seen by environmental groups, government, business and the interested public as a *resource*, knowledgeable about native

plants and their value. Karen Lightfoot's book on threatened and endangered plants will be published soon in loose leaf format, with some public funding (so it cannot be sold). Could NPS help financially to get wider distribution? Perhaps as in the case with Karen's book, limited financial help for new publications on various native plant related topics might help NPS achieve its goals for wider appreciation of the importance of native plants.



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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. Original 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. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. A wide selection of books is available at discount. The society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld. Contact our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative for more information. Call chapter contacts for local information.

**Advertising Schedule**  
Approved advertisements will cost \$50 per year.

**Membership Fees**  
Dues are \$12.00 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, NPSNM, POB 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5917

**Newsletter Contributions**  
Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor. See address below or email to [tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu)  
**Deadline for the next newsletter is December 1.**

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**SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE:** Our main address is: NPSNM, POB 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502-5917. See above for membership and newsletter correspondence.

Another example: NPS could develop an Internet site and home page, with a variety of native plant subjects available, along with notice of meetings, new publications, field trips, native plant gardens, endangered and threatened flora, etc. Members are encouraged to contribute articles to the Newsletter, although articles intended for first use by other (paying?) publications may create copyright conflicts for the author unless permissions are clarified in advance with the media in question. Articles should preferably be specific to New Mexico. NPS could also co-sponsor publications and/or help people with publication projects already underway: often a few thousand dollars will permit a much larger print run and wider distribution. Another option is to produce publications jointly with other organizations. Some people feel that our NPSNM Newsletter carries too many articles reprinted from other sources (Get busy NPS members; if you have something of interest on which you have worked, there are members who can help with writing/editing). More ideas: review new and/or recommended books in the Newsletter; publish articles on gardening with native plants; create guide to native plant gardens and nurseries selling native plants and distribute to nurseries; or list nurseries that sell native plants, with the nurseries paying a fee for the listing. Question: Should New Mexico NPS create booklets that describe our native flora? Arizona has booklets that cover plants (not all natives) for tourists and residents. We could do NM by zones. Texas has done this with their eight zones. Dick Peddie's book, "Vegetation," is the best on this subject. A Publications Committee could make this their first project. (Should NM stick to pamphlets under \$5.00?) A variation on this could be a guide for native plant gardeners and tourists, distributed through the NM Tourist Office, AAA, Chambers of Commerce, nurseries, in hotel and bank lobbies, etc. Look for support from public agencies, foundations, herbaria, environmental research groups for our publications projects. NPS needs photographs, drawings, and other illustrative materials from all over the state.

#### Membership: Activities and Issues

In February when we met in Sevellita, Membership Chair Mary Goodman counted 504 memberships, although many are seldom seen at meetings and field trips. We need to recruit new members, but we also need to do a better job of interesting existing members in our activities and events. Perhaps a letter/questionnaire should be sent to members asking about their particular interests (cacti, conifers, alpine flowers, gardening with native plants?), abilities (photography, collecting and cataloging?), expertise (Chihuahuan Desert, deciduous trees?), as a means of interesting them in attending or giving lectures, leading or participating in field trips, plant sales, etc. Certainly we should follow up new members with a painless questionnaire asking them about their interests and inviting them to participate actively in NPS projects and events. Often people who are not NPS members come to meetings or on field trips. Every such

event should have a sign-up sheet requesting name, address, and phone of everyone attending. There should be a follow-up call to non-members to invite them to join NPS and the local Chapter. And there should be copies of the Newsletter available (or for sale) at all public events and at the Chamber of Commerce, with membership application form inside. Then there should be another follow-up call by a Chapter representative, welcoming the new member and forwarding a packet of materials such as book list, nursery list, meeting schedule, and Chapter contact person(s) with phone number(s). Members and guests should be encouraged to wear name tags at meetings and on field trips, and new people should be welcomed and introduced. Notice of meetings and other NPS events should go out to local news media, along with brief articles/photos about local events, NPS people, flora, ecology, etc. All with the objective of building membership and keeping members interested and involved. Chapters should design programs and projects that work in their local area. Needs vary from small city to large city. Chapters should have a booth/transportable exhibit and NPS literature at county fairs and other events, staffed by Chapter members. Excellent way to get our message across, and to recruit new members. Each Chapter should provide a local sources list for seeds and plants. Gardening is often the first reason persons join NPS. Have Newsletters and other NPS materials available at local nurseries, too. Chapters can also sponsor local garden tours, even if it is just one garden with a knowledgeable guide. If admission price is charged it could include Chapter and/or NPS state membership. And all Chapters can offer books to members at discount prices.

#### Annual Meeting, Symposia, Retreats, and Other Events

Our 1996 Annual Meeting, you will recall, was a joint with NPS of Texas, in El Paso. In 1998 we have been invited by the Texas Native Plant Society to join them again, in Amarillo, focusing on Llano Estacado in October. (Palo Duro Canyon included?) Again, no NPS Chapter volunteered, but a Chapter or members are needed to coordinate and provide manpower. In 1999, Ruidoso, Pecos? Later a joint meeting with Southern Colorado NPS? Comment: Cooperation with neighboring states is fine, but we should have our own meetings at least every other year. Several people at the Sevilleta meeting commented that one such "Annual" Meeting is not enough. NPS should probably have two or three each year. Getting NPS members together from all over the state is a desirable goal, and people enjoy these occasions. A 25th Anniversary Symposium was discussed (theme to be discussed at a later time). This retreat should build on the previous Symposium, and perhaps could be held at Ghost Ranch. Fall is a good time for them and they have good facilities. Could the Santa Fe Botanic Garden consider being co-host?

#### NPS Representation at State and Local Events

The NPS should be represented at Earth Day events, Festival of the Cranes, Mining Days, July 4th and county and state fairs. We need a transportable display/exhibit that is attractive, educational, easy to set up and take down and transportable. It should be designed for seed and plant sales, give aways, display of current literature, book and poster sales. It must be designed and constructed, to NPS specs, by a professional exhibit house, as Albuquerque's was. Suggest that two or three people would be needed to staff the booth/display. We need to identify individuals statewide, through the Chapters or our membership lists, who are available to work our booth/display. They must be supplied with a list of the ten or twenty most frequently asked questions, with answers, and names/phones of people or

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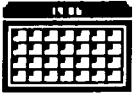
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## CALENDAR

### OTERO

Nov. 1 Potluck and 1998 Planning Meeting. Gordons, noon

### LAS CRUCES

Nov. 5 Potluck. SW Environmental Center. 6:30 pm.

Dec. 3. Annual Planning Mtg. SW Environmental Ctr. 7:30 pm.

## CHAPTER REPORTS



### Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford

The field trip of May 18th to Salinas Peak on the White Sands Missile Range was led by Dave Anderson, Range Biologist. There were 25 members in four vehicles on this 300-mile trip. John Freyermuth reports that the first stop was near the shoreline of the ancient Lake Otero. The group walked to the site of some prehistoric mammoth footprints where they observed oligomeris, pickleweed, seepweed, fourwing salt bush and salt cedar. They also noted desert saltgrass and alkali sacaton grass, along with dwarf gilia, wool star, five-needle dogweed and bicolored mustard. The second stop was at Rhodes Station where they observed spreading fleabane and African rue. The caravan then drove west into Rhodes Canyon along the old state highway connecting Tularosa and Hot Springs (T or C). Over 50 species of plants were noted along the canyon wash. In addition to desert willow, netleaf hackberry and cottonwood trees, the following plants were flowering: Hartweg's sundrops, James' penstemon, Drummond's skullcap, western wallflower, milkwort, spring evening primrose, desert rose, sand aster, scarlet beeblossom, Nuttall's locoweed, blackfoot daisy, plains flax, Santa Fe phlox and dingy chamaesaracha. After stopping for a picnic lunch at an old ranch house, the group traveled to the middle of San Andres Mountains and then ascended to the 8950-foot summit of Salinas Peak. This is a sky island forested with ponderosa pine, mountain mahogany, quaking aspen, mountain spray, white-flowering cliff Fendlerbush, yellow-flowering algerita and pink-flowering New Mexico locust. After a brief and violent thunderstorm, the group explored the perimeter of the peak around the large range station located there. Approximately 35 species of plants were noted including fringed sage, pinyon pine and New Mexico agave. Flowering plants included southwestern paintbrush, red sage, filaree, perky Sue, puccoon and hiddenflower. The group drove from here to the Mockingbird Mountains, near the Trinity Site, and on to Malpais Spring. They stopped to observe a cluster of very large, red-flowering claret cup cactus. At Malpais Springs alkaline water gushes from a large spring and flows in a stream to a nearby marsh. Aside from salt cedar and pickleweed, there were many plants new to most members, including sea lavender, limewater brookweed, alkali chalice (also known as tall prairie gentian), saltmarsh bulrush and alkali bulrush. After 12 hours and 300 miles of driving, the trip concluded with Jennifer Atchley's presentation of a painting of the Organ Mountains to Dave.

In our June 11th meeting, Dave Richman, NMSU professor of entomology, gave a slide presentation of his trip in the Sonoran Desert with a group of professional biologists to Camino del Diablo (Highway of the Devil) in a very remote region of southwestern

Arizona. They started in Ajo, Arizona and journeyed through the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Preserve past Bates Wells to the Growler Mountains and on to Papago Wells and Tuli Wells. His slides showed many unusual desert plants such as organ pipe cactus, saguaro cactus, chair cholla, and elephant trees. They also traveled through several areas of creosote desert where nothing grows but creosote. The annual rainfall in this country is less than three inches a year.

On June 15th, Terry Peterson led 10 other members to his private land near Berenda Mountain north of Lake Valley. They first hiked through an area of rocky foothills with ocotillo, honey mesquite, white thorn acacia, sotol, alligator juniper, Wright's silk tassel, littleleaf sumac, shrub live oak, lemonade bush, prickly pear and feather pea bush. They descended to a small plain where they saw woven pineapple cactus, Mormon tea, snakeweed, and coldenia, along with flowering specimens of narrow-leaved flame flower, blue penstemon, plains zinnia, trailing windmills, yellow flax, spiny dogweed and sageleaf bahia. They then went through a small, narrow canyon observing smooth, polished red jasper along with rocks and boulders. There they found netleaf hackberry, soapberry, canyon grape, one-seeded juniper, Apache plume, Brickellia, velvet leaf ash, threadleaf groundsel, Dutchman's britches, tahoka daisy, buffalo gourd, cowpen daisy, wolfberry, roundleaf buckwheat, horehound, buffalo bur (yellow flowering), stickleaf blazing star, Louisiana sage, horse weed, chamisa, climbing milkweed vine, giant sacaton, scarlet penstemon, desert marigold and hiddenflower. After descending a small, dry waterfall by rope and ladder, they found an unusual cactus growing on top of a large branch of a juniper tree. On the hillside ascent back to the parking area they observed spicebush, dingy chamaesaracha, New Mexico sida, whiteball acacia and rosepink flowering vervain.

Alice Anderson conducted a Show and Tell meeting on July 9th. She brought specimens of poisonous plants including oleander and milkweed vine with its white five-petaled flowers. This particular vine with its arrowhead-shaped leaves can easily take over a garden. Despite its poisonous attributes, it attracts many butterflies. Carolyn Gressitt brought samples of netleaf hackberry and purple asters.

On July 13th, John Freyermuth led ten members on a field trip to Achenbach Canyon on the western slope of the Organ Mountains. John reported that the trip to this area in August of last year, after usual summer rains, yielded a plant list of 91 taxa. Since there had been much less rain thus far this year, there were not nearly as many plants observed. However, the following additions to last year's list were observed: New Mexico agave, cutleaf brickellia, California brickellia, snake weed, desert willow, indigobush, cylinder bells, claret cup, redeye prickly pear, white-spined prickly pear, brown-spined prickly pear, tree cholla, Fendler's globemallow, lambs-quarters, soapberry, Mexican buckeye, whitethorn acacia, thornless

acacia, range ratany, shrub live oak, linearleaf flame flower, pink windmills, whitemouth dayflower, spikemoss, copper-fern, and two species of cloak-fern. The group also admired several large examples of fishhook barrel cactus, New Mexico rainbow cactus, woven pineapple cactus, and profusion of pancake cactus.

Our meeting of August 13th featured a presentation on "Fruits" by Alice Anderson. "The fruit of a flowering plant may be defined as a matured ovary and its contents, together with other flower parts that may sometimes adhere to it." There are many different types of fruits, several of which are quite surprising in their classification. Apples and pears are Pomes, peaches and cherries are Drupes, while tomatoes and grapes are Berries. However, raspberries and strawberries are not Berries, rather they are Aggregate Fruits. Nuts are as we usually know them, such as oak, walnut and hazelnut, and Legumes do include the expected peas and beans. However, alfalfa is also a Legume and not a Grain such as wheat, rice and corn. Alice brought a number of examples of fruits with her, along with a cutting board, knife and plates.

The field trip of August 17th was led by Paul Hyder on the Jornada Experimental Range of NMSU. John Freyermuth reports that there was a party of nine on this trip. They drove north for 20 miles to the range headquarters and then another 10 or 15 miles to a sandy destination where several colorful flowering plants were observed. This area with its underlying gypsum is one of the most interesting parts of the 300-square-mile Jornada Range. They were able to key several unfamiliar plants with the help of Professor Ed Fredrickson of the Jornada Range with his new Field Guide to the Flora of the Jornada. The following plants were observed in this location: soap-tree yucca, wooly tidestromia, ragweed, sand sage, desert marigold, western fleabane, broom snakeweed, rayed palafoxia, green thread, plains zinnia, bindweed heliotrope, spectacle-pod and White Sands mustard, twinleaf senna, hog potato, narrowleaf goosefoot, Russian thistle, torrey ephedra, rattlesnake weed, desert spurge, wooly and broom dalea, purple curleaf, Chihuahua flax, blazing star, globemallow and pale globemallow, honey mesquite, trailing windmills, spike spiderling, scarlet gaura, golden devil's claw, Abert's and annual buckwheat, blue grama, fluff grass, spike dropseed, mesa dropseed, giant dropseed, gyp dropseed, net-cup snapdragon vine, sand penstemon, and silverleaf nightshade. Paul Hyder is a herpetologist and he identified a sideblotched lizard and also a western rattlesnake for the group. After a stop back at the range headquarters, Paul took the group over to the nearby site of the future Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Since Paul is Executive Director of this park, they had a comprehensive tour of that location. While there they identified banana yucca, sageleaf bahia, mariola, desert zinnia, yellow bells, big needle cactus, beehive nipple cactus, claret cup, fishhook barrel cactus, tangled fishhook cactus, ocotillo, allthorn, ammocodon, rough menodora and creosote bush.

The meeting of September 10th included a slide presentation entitled "Ethnobotany in Southern New Mexico" by local naturalist Harold Hiles. Dr. Hiles holds three PhD degrees. He owns and operates the Southwest Research Institute in nearby Fairacres where he publishes his various studies in nature and anthropology. He discussed the uses of native plants by American Indians and pioneers in this area. He also discussed the poisonous aspects of some local native plants.

### Retreat cont'd

organizations to call for more information on a variety of subjects. (They *will* be representing NPS.) They will also have to be trained in setting up and taking down the display. NPS should give the President authority to delegate people to staff our booth. Members and Chapters can call and suggest events worthy of an NPS booth. NPS has been asked to attend eight different events this year, although some have had such a short time lead as to be impossible to schedule. Suggest a yearly calendar of events; stating when we are available.

### Sevilleta Wrap-Up

At the conclusion of the discussions on Sunday President Mary Whitmore called for wrap-up observations. Most agreed that we need some time for ideas to settle in our minds and be evaluated. Now we have to turn good ideas in realities. Action, please! Let's keep the enthusiasm going! Probably we should have more such planning sessions or retreats, and longer, less rushed NPS Board meetings. To all NPS members statewide, please stay in contact. Write ideas to our President or the Newsletter Editor.

### SPECIAL ISSUES I: State Treasury Funds ... Budgets

Most universities, colleges, research institutes, museums and other non-profits have Endowment Funds. After Jack Carter raised the issue, most of the participants at the Sevilleta meeting agreed that it was at the very least a subject for further study. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico already has funds in its Treasury, and it seems only right and fitting that some money be set aside and never touched, giving NPS "everlasting life." NPS Treasurer Babs Peck has, since the meeting, started developing a procedure for setting up an Endowment Fund. Such a fund would give NPS a permanence that should out live current members and the whirl of daily events. NPS's objective is to be an on-going organization, to insure the attention to and protection of New Mexico's diverse and valuable native flora and its habitats. A common procedure for such funds is to have a 50/50 split, with half of our income going to the Endowment Fund and the other half to operating budgets. In addition, we can include on membership applications and membership renewal forms a space for contributing money to the NPS Endowment. The Fund needs to be incorporated into the state NPS budget, and the President has already agreed to work with the Treasurer (seeking Board input) to develop a new budget to present to the Board at the Annual Meeting. As a further control of Endowment Funds, two people are designated to manage the Funds and to sign the checks when disbursements have been approved. Also, an Endowment Fund is designed to include a designee (i.e., another organization or cause) to inherit the money should the NPS cease to exist or the membership change its collective mind about the organization's name and purpose. Endowment Funds could be tapped for a variety

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## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Otero-Jean Dodd

On June 7 Otero Chapter's trip to the Black Range and the City of Rocks near Deming led by Paul Gordon turned out to be one of our best trips. The weather was perfect. It had rained the night before which cooled off the summer heat and left cloudy skies behind. Saw lots of wildflowers-large clumps of *Datura*, pale blue trumpets-*Gilia longiflora*-coneflowers, an assortment of mallows, lots of white prickly poppies, desert marigolds, blazing star-*Mentzelia*-yellow evening primroses, bluets-*Hedyotis* sp. in a perfect pink mound, 4 o'clock-possibly *Mirabilis linearis*-delicate-red, filaree-pink, tall penstemons with closed red flowers hanging down the length of the stalk, lots of lupines, tobacco plant-*Nicotiana repanda*, red Indian paintbrush, and 5 needle Fetid Marigold-*Dysoddia pentachaeta*. At the two bridges across the Percha Creek (the old and the new) we walked over the old bridge and back admiring the beautiful scenery under us and admired the steel span of the new bridge now used for two way traffic. One of the many changes since our trip in Sept. 1988. SHRUBS AND TREES Whitethorn acacia, yucca elata in bloom, artemesia filifolia. We started seeing groves of soapberry trees-*Sapindus saponaria*. See Ivey p. 372-his sketch is from the general area. We saw 2 large groves of this tree all in full bloom. Quite a sight to behold. Paul said there was one very large soapberry on a sharp curve so we couldn't stop to admire. Other trees were native walnut full of nuts, Tree of Heaven, and wild cherry. The oaks were Emory, Gambel, Silver leaf, and Gray oak. At one place a cluster of hybridized oaks were a combination of Gray oak and Wavy leaf oak. Other trees were Arizona Alder, and Black locust in bloom. Additional changes since 1988 were both the boat dock at Caballo and the City of Rocks. The boat dock had changed beyond recognition. The nice quiet place where we camped now looks like a trailer park. At the City of Rocks you must now stop and pay and they are building additional buildings so that it has lost its in the country feeling. It is still a very nice place to visit. Another change along NM 61 was the large number of Bird of Paradise bushes. In some places they covered a large field.

On 19 July Otero took a trip into the Sacramento Mountains. Our destination was Benson Ridge. Don & Judy Tribble had scouted out the itinerary ahead for the best variety of wildflowers in bloom in this rainy season of the year. At one place there was a true window of opportunity for those with cameras. Through a space in all of the foliage you could see in the distance Sierra Blanca and two other mountain ranges to make a perfect picture. The most common shrub in bloom throughout the trip was Mountain Spray, *Holodiscus dumosa* of the rose family. At just the right stage the sprays of flowers are indeed beautiful. Interested teens on the trip found wild strawberries to eat. There were gooseberries and elderberry shrubs but the fruit was not ready to eat. The tallest plants were the Monument plant-Green gentian-to 6' tall and the Mountain figwort, *Scrophularia montana* which can grow to 6' too. Little plants were bedstraw-*Galium*, vetch, meadow chickweed, tuber starwort, purple flowered hedeoma, fleabane, lots and lots of harebells, purple gentian, wild onions, sweet cicly, and many more. Going back down the mountain through Karr Canyon we stopped at the picnic area and found to our surprise that a gate had been put in place so you cannot drive vehicles in the area where the tables are.

Otero Chapter went on a White Sands Missile Range trip with botanist Dave Anderson 9 August 1997 travelling through the Oscura Mountains ending up on Hwy 380 about 16 miles from Carrizozo. We went from desert scrub with a mountain back drop on to hills covered with ocotillo in bloom, soltols with their stalks, and wildflowers. Then there were hills of many colors with widely spaced shrubs. The true glory of New Mexico is in such a variety of landscapes. We went from 4100' to 7946' in elevation. The whole trip was carefully planned for everyone's comfort. Our first stop was at the end of the lava beds to look at the ponds full of wader and pup fish. Member Dr. Reiser spoke about the current tests studying salt tolerance in the pupfish in case they one day have to be moved to another site. In the meantime great blue herons were waiting for us to leave. Plants there were Prarie gentian-*Chalice* cup, sea lavender, pickleweed-*Allenrolfea*, salt grass, N.M. Olive, and seep willow. Going on up the hill we saw *Ephedra Coryi*, little leaf sumac, mariola, bear grass, pinyon, Southwest rabbitbrush-see Warnock-Guadalupes, p.135, *Caesalpinia Jamesii*, N.M. Hedgehog, and yellow flax. Yates Valley was in the distance. Lately we have been seeing bluets. The one there is Desert Innocence, *Hedyotis rubra*-pink. Clammy weed, *Polanisia dodecandra* sp. *trachysperma* grew by the roadside-just one clump. *Salvia pinquifolia* ws familiar.

Otero met at the turnoff road to Three Rivers 9-6-97. It was a long dusty road into the forest through mostly desert scrub. Main flowers were bi-colored mustard and trumpet *Gilia* (*Ipomopsis longiflora*-*phlox* family). Chollas were enormous! Near one stop we saw remnants of an irrigation system including what looked like a cleanout for the system. This brought up local N.M. history in books like "Meanwhile back at the Ranch" which covers this area. Crossing over into the forest we found restrooms and picnic tables-new since we had been there before. A place had been prepared for a host, probably during the summer months. We met Mary Yanalcanlin and her girls as we came into the picnic area. They were so familiar with the area that they made excellent guides. Walking along the shady creek area we saw old, old alligator juniper trees as well as oaks, walnut trees, pinyons, velvet ash, narrowleaf cottonwood right by the creek all to the sound of water moving down the creek. You can actually go from there to Sierra Blanca going to Ruidoso.

Otero's edible native potluck was held at the home of Linda and Jack Green this year and will be next year, too. Greens bought property at Iron Gate between Cloudcroft and Mayhill some time ago and were members then while they lived in El Paso. Now they are settled in and enjoying the mountain plants. Wildflowers were past their peak so we will schedule next year earlier. Quite a few new members attended with at least one who had moved away and is now back in the area. Jack was cooking on his smokeless grill when we arrived. Some of the menu-3 kinds of bread, ham and pinto beans, rosemary napolitos, excellent topping for rice with meat and lots of vegetables, salad with fresh fruit including pieces of prickly pear tunas, and applesauce. Deserts included black walnut cake, elderberry pie, pinyon pies-really good if you have never had any, apple cobbler, Ruby port dessert from a Niethammer book made from prickly pear tunas and juice. As you can tell some brought native edibles and some did not. It has always been that way. Otero can't mention this subject without a big thank you to Betty and Jim Claypool for their enthusiasm about using natives for food and all of the work they have done for the potluck over the years.

## Retreat Cont'd

of worthy projects or causes, such as: assisting with research; helping to fund herbaria; providing scholarships for advanced study by botanists; rewarding nurseries for sustaining and marketing native plants; assisting Chapters with purchase of educational displays; purchase of important habitat; assisting photographers and illustrators with documenting rare or endangered native flora; or establishing a revolving fund to help support publication projects. After lengthy discussion about the handsome income already earned from poster sales it was suggested that we think of new sales-worthy projects to improve our bottom line. It was also agreed that we must carefully think through how NPS spends its money. We are solvent but have finite resources. First we must budget for current and ongoing NPS membership activities. Then we must plan for the Endowment Fund. And, finally, decide on not more than two or three outside organizations or projects to support. This, of course, implies that we need a long-term plan and that we may need to look for additional sources of funds although all support need not be financial.

### SPECIAL ISSUES II: NPS Education Programs

Education should surely be one of NPS's more important activities. In a sense, that is a goal of the society. Many of our members are educators, and have been involved in teaching students botany. We could and should communicate effectively with a wider audience about native plants and their importance in New Mexico. Without going crazy appointing new NPS committees for this and that, we should, because of our society's basic mission, establish a functional Education Committee to review and select projects to present to the Board for funding. Education of various populations/groups within the state is a responsibility that we must assume and plan and budget for. A few of the Educational opportunities and projects discussed at the Sevilleta meeting included:

1. Developing a list of children's books about native plants.
2. Developing a native plant hand-out for the Living Desert Museum and other gardens.
3. Spreading the word about noxious weeds and exotics, and their impact in New Mexico.
4. Encouraging local TV stations to air more programs about plants; nature programs are usually about animals.
5. Sponsor/organize workshops where the focus is on a specific genus, habitat or topic. (Other NPS such as Colorado do this.)
6. Follow up an evening speaker with a weekend field trip focused on his/her subject.
7. Limit the number of participants on field trips, and inform them on proper conduct in the field so that habitats are not disturbed or damaged by the group.
8. Provide educational packages for teachers.
9. Provide NPS sponsored workshops for teachers.
10. Invite Native Americans to explain their use of native plants.

NPS has produced a slide program for schools but there have not been very many requests for it. People do not know the plants. The idea was to send out a tray of slides and a script for teachers to use in the classroom. Ideally there should be 50 or so plants illustrated and identified for each of several areas of the state. But we need more slides. Comment: a video would be more convenient to use in many classrooms. The Board of NPS would welcome additional

input from members statewide about how better to implement worthwhile Educational Programs.

### SPECIAL ISSUES III: Conservation Issues — Working With Conservation Non-Profits

The NPS Conservation Committee is in place and working to represent our members. The Conservation Committee consists of a representative from each Chapter. Mission statement: It is the policy of the NPS to preserve habitat where ever possible. Conservation Committee should have the authority to act on issues in a timely manner. There is not usually time to poll the whole Board. However, the President must be informed of all actions because of possible press contact. The Conservation Committee needs a list of people around the state to alert when a problem arises that should have the Committee's attention. These same people could also alert the Conservation Committee when local problems arise. Committee members would speak as needed: "I am a friend (or Board member) of the NPS NM and we would like to see this problem handled this way." The NPS Conservation Committee supports certain non-profits financially. We are not an activist organization therefore we support appropriate activists. For example: The Southwest Center for Biological Diversity; and The Nature Conservancy, with a grant for Bear Mt. Guest Ranch. Conservation Committee must find the organizations it wants to support, not just sit back and wait for them to come to us. And it must budget for this support. Should the Conservation Chair make these decisions, or go to the NPS Board for approval? Personnel for all National Forests in NM are beginning to plan for the next ten (10) year cycle of programs and policies. Chapters should be aware of the status of plans for the forests closest to them. For NPS major issues are the creation of research natural areas, and special botanic areas. NPS should work to be sure that public agencies use native seeds when planting for re-vegetation. NPS local Chapters should also be aware of Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) listing process as it moves to *conservation plans* rather than using the Endangered Species Act. New Mexico has a Plant Recovery Team headed up by F&WS. This is a group of experts who advise on rare and endangered plants. For the last three years the public has been permitted to attend one day of their two-day annual spring session. NPS should have a representative there to learn what is happening botanically in the state. Notify F&WS and our representative will be invited. NPS members should relay information to the State Forestry Department (Bob Sivinski) regarding rare and endangered plants where and when found. Also to the Natural Heritage Association (the scientific record keeping agency of the Nature Conservancy which is in Albuquerque and also supported by UNM), and the land management agency responsible for that land. There needs to be better feed-back to our members about what Conservation does and what the organizations we support are doing (and E-mail addresses in Newsletter). Members are entitled to know how we spend that portion of their dues that goes for Conservation. The state population is predicted to grow 25% by 2030, which obviously will effect Conservation ecologically and politically. Probably Conservation members should participate actively in Santa Fe, the state capitol, or ask the President/Board to designate appropriate individual members to lobby for NPS on issues of concern to us. Of course, individual members can always write or contact Legislators on their own, but not as lobbyists for NPS. We need to have a Policy Committee if we lobby, as time does not permit calling the full Board on each issue. E-mail and fax can also be used. Lobbyists must be registered, which is easy to do. But there are

actually few state wide issues NPS Conservation needs to lobby directly. Most such issues are really local or regional, and are better left to the Chapters.

#### **SPECIAL ISSUES IV: Support of Other Research, Botanic Gardens, Herbaria, Etc.**

An excellent use of Endowment revenue would be for NPS to support botanic gardens, state herbaria and floristic studies. We can be selective, offering support for field work, getting research files into a data base, or supporting specific herbaria. Note: Chapter members can work for the above. Money is not always needed. In support of herbaria for example, Chapters can collect plants for them if needed and they are in good supply (20 or more specimens). A plant press is necessary, as is a permit to collect rare or endangered plants. Herbaria are not just for local use; they are an area or state resource. NPS could consider support for colleges and universities, because botany is really hurting. World wide there is a shortage of botanists, although we have a surfeit in the U.S. New Mexico State has its "Friends of Herbaria (Otero and Las Cruces Chapters) which help provide funds for student's projects, summer work in the lab, etc. NPS should support botanic gardens, if their focus is on native plants. Most botanic gardens today include native plants in some way. Santa Fe has plans and land for a native plant garden at Santa Fe Community College. They now have the Ortiz Mountain top for educational purposes. The SFCC plans to offer a two-year program in horticulture, and a four-year program in the future. Many of the courses are taught by members of the SFBG. Emphasis is on drought tolerant plants, xeriscaping, etc. NPS should also consider supporting artists and photographers. Pay for pictures so we can use them in any projects/programs we have. We could even request portfolios and hire the artist or photographer to do pictures on specific assignment. Photographers can sell pictures for a good price and still retain the rights to the photograph. On the other hand there are amateurs who are good enough and would work for costs (gas, film,

processing, etc.). NPS could support a native plant photography contest; winning pictures to be mounted and the display circulated to public libraries around the state, published in newspapers, displayed in tourist offices or Chambers of Commerce. NPS keeps the rights to use the winning photos. Probably NPS can develop corporate and other institutional support for its programs and projects, such as the photography contest, field research, etc. And NPS should develop a procedure for apportioning money equally around the state. The state could also take Chapter recommendations for spending on a matching basis.

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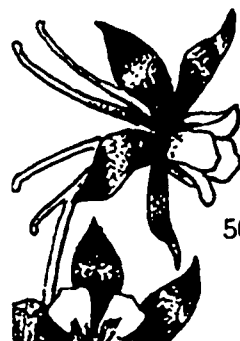
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