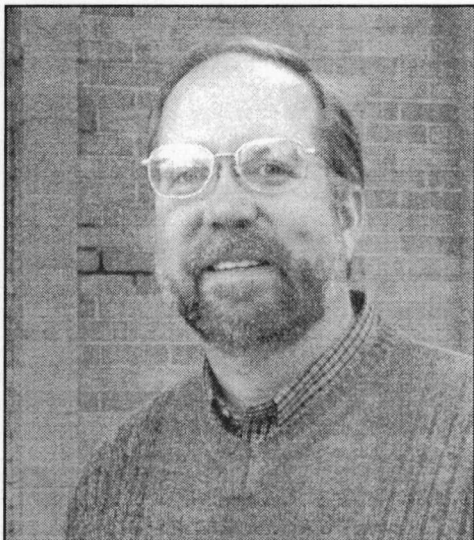


Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NEWSLETTER

April, May, June 2003 Volume XXVIII Number 2

GARY ZIEHE TO KEYNOTE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING



As Executive Director of the Valles Caldera Trust, which manages the Valles Caldera National Preserve, Gary Ziehe provides leadership for an array of programs involving resource management, research, education, and the development of a comprehensive management program for the Preserve.

In addition, Gary directs the administration of the Trust, and develops and maintains working relationships with federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and governments with interests in the Preserve.

Prior to joining the Trust, Gary served as Wildlife Resources and Policy Specialist for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, advising on the interaction between wildlife management and agriculture production. He also advised the Department in developing policy for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, leading to its 2002 Farm Bill proposals.

Cont'd on back page

Another Reason to Love Wal-Mart!

Wildflower magazine reports that Wal-Mart stores in Maryland have been selling *Trillium grandiflorum*, six rhizomes for \$6.47. The plants are sold under the Better Homes and Gardens label, which bears the blatantly false statement, "Grown in the USA from cultivated stock. Inspected by the US Dept. of Agriculture." According to the USDA, the agency does **not** inspect any plant material.

Moreover, the price is so low that the plants were surely collected in the wild, as it takes three years to grow them from seed. These woodland plants are disappearing at a rate that could soon put them on the endangered list.

At press time we were unable to determine just how widespread this practice is.

INSIDE

- * Annual Meeting Agenda
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- * Grants
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FIVE GRANTS APPROVED BY NPSNM BOARD

Displaying the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the efficiency of a well-oiled machine, the NPSNM Board of Directors and state chapter representatives met recently to ponder six grant proposals for funding in 2003. Five of the six proposals submitted were approved:

1. A grant of \$500 was approved for Donald Davidson, a botanical illustrator from Washington, D.C., for an educational project, "Using the Arts for Native Plant Stewardship Skill Development in the Chihuahuan Desert" during the month of April 2003 at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

2. One thousand dollars goes to the Mariposaville Community Pollinator Habitat at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in Albuquerque to increase people's awareness of pollinators and native plants in the Albuquerque area.

3. One thousand dollars goes to the Taos Chapter to add a circulating collection of native plant books to the Taos Public Library. The purpose is to educate the people of Taos County and the surrounding area in the use of native plants for landscaping and the identification of native plants in their local habitats.

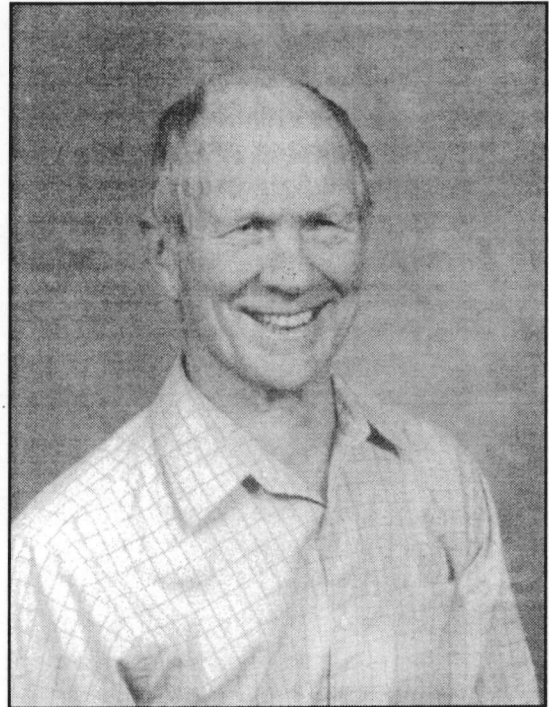
4. One thousand dollars was approved for the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park in Las Cruces to continue to expand its educational programs for children.

5. One thousand dollars goes to Dr. William Norris, Herbarium Curator at Western New Mexico University in Silver City, to process a backlog of plant specimens that have been donated over the years but have not been mounted and cataloged.

"Providing these grants is one of the most important things NPSNM does for the communities where we live and work," said NPSNM President Lisa Mandelkern. "The grants fulfill our mission of promoting the conservation of our native flora and plant habitats and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants in New Mexico."

Grants are considered at the NPSNM Board meeting at the start of each calendar year. If your chapter, or someone you know in your community, would like to apply for a grant next year, visit the NPS Website at <http://npsnm.unm.edu> for more detailed information and grant deadlines.

VOLUNTEER PROFILES



ROGER PETERSON
Santa Fe Chapter

A founding member of NPSNM and past newsletter editor, Roger has been an active participant in our State's botanical life. Aside from giving presentations to his chapter on New Mexico's flora and conducting field trips, Roger volunteers his time and expertise to conduct botanical surveys of the New Mexico alpine, Bitter Lake National Wilderness Refuge, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Sugarite State Park, Ted Turner's Armendaris Ranch, and several other National Forest and BLM areas.

He is also the founder and volunteer director of the New Mexico Natural History Institute, housed at the Audubon Society's Randall Davey Center in Santa Fe Canyon, and has created a herbarium of New Mexico flora as well as a botanical library at the Randall Davey Center.

Roger holds graduate degrees in ecology and mycology, and conducted a 9-year research project for the Forest Service on diseases of conifers (especially rust fungi). He taught at St. John's College for 28 years and retired in 1994. Asked about his current interests, Rogers replied, "Now that I'm in my second childhood, I'm turning again to rust fungi."

Who in your chapter deserves recognition for his or her work on behalf of NPSNM? Send a short description and a photo to Editor, PO Box 607, Arroyo Seco, NM 87514.

Notice:

The TAOS Chapter
will sponsor a
Grasses ID Workshop
the weekend of
July 26-27
led by **Chick Keller.**

For details or to sign up, contact
Chick 505-662-7915 or Nancy Daniel 505-988-9141

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization, and is free to members. The NPSNM 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 attributed to the author and to this Newsletter. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM. Manuscripts and artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor:

*POBox 607, Arroyo Seco NM 87514
andrzej@laplaza.org*

Deadline for next issue is June 1st 2003

Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our 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 dealing with plants, landscaping, and other environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cacti poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

Proofreaders: Jane Mygatt, Beryl Schwartz, Donna Stevens, Sally Wasowski, Jackie Tamas and Ann Ellen Tuomey.

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NPSNM Membership Application

Name(s) _____

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I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter

- Albuquerque
- Carlsbad
- El Paso, TX
- Gila (Silver City)
- Las Cruces
- Otero
- Sacramento Mts (Ruidoso)
- San Juan (Farmington)
- Santa Fe
- Taos

I am interested in forming a new chapter in

Annual Dues:

- Individual or family.....\$20.00
- Friend of the Society.....\$30.00
- Supporting Member.....\$50.00
- Sponsor.....\$100.00
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(65 & over) and Students.....\$12.00

Endowment contribution \$ _____
Total \$ _____

**Make your check payable to
NPSNM
and send to
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P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**

RECOGNIZING LAMIACEAE

by Donna Stevens
First of a Series

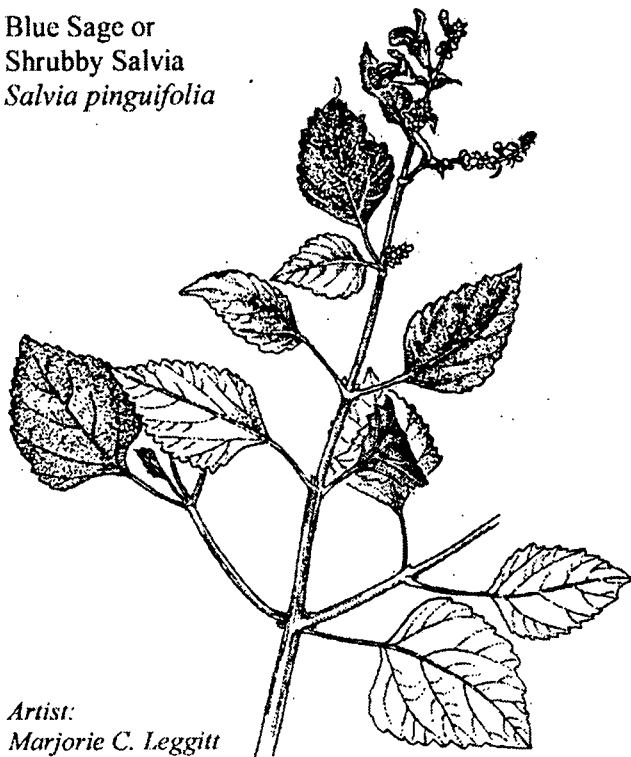
Learning to identify plants in New Mexico can be an intimidating undertaking. There are approximately 3,500 plant species in New Mexico and, unless you have a phenomenal memory, you won't be able to remember the characteristics of all the plants you encounter. Fortunately, there is an easier way to tackle the native flora, and that involves learning a few common plant families. Armed with this information, you can usually find the plant you're searching for in Robert DeWitt Ivey's *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*.

Let's start with the family that's probably the easiest to recognize: the mint family, Lamiaceae (older books may call this family Labiatae). With the exception of a shrub or two, the mints are herbs. Their stems are four-angled or square, and the leaves are opposite each other on the stems. The flowers have five sepals (the usually green, leaf-like structures under the petals) united into a tube. Although it may appear that the flowers have two petals, there are actually five: two pointing upward, and three down. In botanical jargon, the flowers are known as "irregular," meaning that they are bilaterally symmetrical (there is only one way you could bisect the flower with each half being a mirror image of the other). The flowers are usually arranged in whorls around the stem, or at the tip of the stem.

While sight is crucial for plant identification, let's not forget our sense of smell. Most of the mints are aromatic: crush a leaf between your fingers, and you'll know you've encountered a member of the Lamiaceae.

Are there any similar families that could be confused with Lamiaceae? Of course! You wanted a challenge, didn't you? The Scrophulariaceae family also has irregular flowers with two petals pointing up and three down, and some have opposite leaves, but they don't smell minty, and the stems aren't square. Plants in Verbenaceae have opposite leaves, and some have squarish stems, but their flowers aren't irregular and, again, they lack the aromatic foliage.

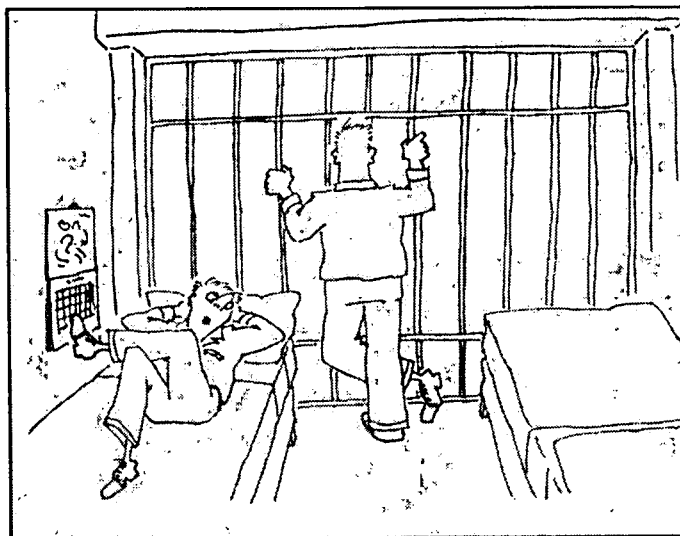
Blue Sage or
Shrubby Salvia
Salvia pinguifolia



Some beautiful minty natives for your garden include members of the following genera: *Agastache* (Giant Hyssop), *Monarda* (Bergamot, Bee Balm) and the *Salvias* (sages). One of my personal favorites is *Salvia pinguifolia*, the Shrub Salvia, with silvery leaves, purple flowers, and a fabulous fragrance.

Remember to stop and smell the Lamiaceae!

Donna is VP of the Gila Chapter and curator of the Jack L. Carter Herbarium Annex in Silver City.



"Hey, McGruder! It's April. Time to start thinking about our spring plantings."

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Grass Workshop

**Identification & Taxonomy
Of New Mexico Grasses
August 14-16, 2003**

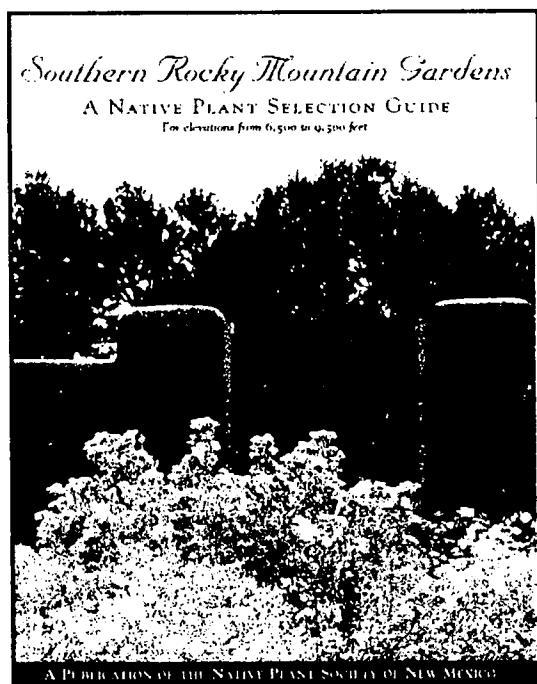
Instructor: Kelly Allred
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces
Classroom Work and Field Trips
For More Info or to Register, Contact:
Nancy Daniel (505) 988-9141

Registration is Limited

* Carlsbad Activities & Events

April 5. Words and Drawing workshop at Carlsbad Caverns led by Sandra Lynn & Donald Davidson. 8 AM.
April 6. Sketch hike at Carlsbad Caverns. 8 AM.
April 13. Botanical drawing workshop at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. 8 AM.
April 19. Workshop on the lore of Chihuahuan Desert native plants, led by Sandra Lynn. 8 AM.
April 20. Workshop on biodiversity and cultural uses of native plants led by Steve West. 8 AM.
April 22. Sketch hike for Earth Day at Carlsbad Caverns, led by Donald Davidson. 8 AM.
For details on all the above workshops, contact Paula Bauer 505-785-3131. These workshop are sponsored in part by a grant from the NPSNM.
May 15-18. Mescal Roast activities at Living Desert Zoo & Gardens. For details contact Sandra Lynn at 505-234-1772.

Guide for North Central New Mexico out for Spring



Two years in the planning and execution, a 42-page native plant guide titled, *Southern Rocky Mountain Gardens: A Native Plant Selection Guide for Elevations from 6500 to 9500 Feet* will be in bookstores and nurseries by this April, says Sally Wasowski, Publications Chairperson for NPSNM.

The booklet includes 104 plant profiles and color photos of 90 plants suitable for landscaping at higher elevations, as well as habitat descriptions, and landscape plans that show how to group the plants according to water needs.

The text was written by Sally Wasowski, with technical assistance from Jack and Martha Carter, Dorothy Hoard, Bob Sivinski, and Chick and Yvonne Keller. Photographs were contributed by Martha Carter, Carolyn Dodson, Chick Keller, Bob Sivinski and Andy Wasowski.

Although specifically tailored to north central New Mexico, this booklet is also useful in mountainous communities in southern New Mexico and Colorado.

The booklet is a follow-up to *Chihuahuan Desert Gardens*, produced by NPSNM in 1998. *Southern Rocky Mountain Gardens* will wholesale at \$7.20 per copy and will retail at \$12.00. To order, contact Lisa Johnston at 505-748-1046 or email her at nps_nmbooks@hotmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I would like newsletter readers to know that at the most recent Board of Directors meeting on February 1-2, 2003, we voted to develop an official position on more rigorous regulation of the collection and trade of certain wild Chihuahuan Desert plants (particularly cacti, ocotillos, and yuccas).

The new year has delivered some bad news directly to our doorstep in New Mexico in the form of a report released in January entitled "Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti." The report results from an investigation initiated by the World Wildlife Fund, which considers the Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion of Mexico and the United States important "for conservation because of its outstanding biological diversity, ecological fragility, and environmental concerns." (The report can be found on the internet at http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/prickly_trade.html.)

The report describes as a "significant" threat "the commercial extraction [from the Chihuahuan Desert] of wild native succulents, including cacti, for landscaping in private gardens hundreds of miles away." The plants are disappearing from West Texas and southern New Mexico and being transported to buyers in cities such as Phoenix, Albuquerque, and San Antonio to be installed in xeriscapes.

The Native Plant Society's purposes include conservation, education, and research. First, we will be considering conservation--how we can persuade the right people at the state level to put teeth into New Mexico's regulations concerning collection and trade of native plants.

Although the Board of Directors has not voted on any other response to this issue yet, it seems to me, as a board member, that we will also need to address public education. We actively encourage landscaping with natives, but it appears that we must also educate consumers about how to avoid purchasing plants that have been stolen from their habitat. And finally, though again the Board has not discussed this, I also think we may want to consider using grant funds to support research on the extent and effects of plant theft in New Mexico.

If members have information about the plant trade or suggestions for the Board of Directors to consider, please notify your chapter representatives or President Lisa Mandelkern.

Sandra Lynn
Chapter Representative,
Carlsbad Madrone Chapter

RECOVERY & RESTORATION

State Meeting * Los Alamos * August 7-10, 2003

The Santa Fe Chapter welcomes you to the Annual State NPS meeting in Los Alamos. The theme for this year is "Recovery and Restoration," and perhaps there is no better place in the State where this theme is more in practice, given the Cerro Grande Fire and the establishment of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (previously a cattle ranch). The time is also ideal; early August is when the mountain flowers are at their best and the extent of recovery from fires, livestock, and other damage is most evident.

The program committee has put together an outstanding menu for you to pick from, enlarging on the theme and adding items of perennial interest to our society. The University of New Mexico's Los Alamos Branch (UNMLA) has agreed to host the meetings, plant sale, silent auction and book sale, complete with its computer classroom for the workshop on identifying plants.



Of course, this is a great opportunity to tour our newest national park. It's still closed to the public while they do the research necessary to assess its environmental condition (with and without grazing), but we're going to get to go through it and to find out what's being done to restore it to a more natural state.

There will also be the opportunity to walk through the fire-ravaged forest and see first hand how it is both recovering and being restored by the Forest Service and a huge citizen volunteer force, and how the land has been changed by large floods that followed the fire.

As for native landscaping — Judith Phillips will take you through the on-site design of a native plant landscape on land surrounding our Ehart Senior Center, as well as a tour of local gardens.

The Program Format: mornings are for workshops and field trips (concurrent), and afternoons are for talks and panels (one track).

We've tried to offer a variety of really good things to do, but sign up early since the more popular ones will fill up early, and join other members of our Society in an enjoyable and educational time together.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

Thursday August 7th

- 4:00 p.m. Registration at Hilltop House
- 6:00 p.m. Ice Breaker at Hilltop House

Friday August 8th

- 8:00 a.m. Registration at UNMLA Activity Building #2
- 8:30 a.m. Workshops
- 9:00 a.m. State NPS Board Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. LUNCH at UNMLA Activity Center
- 1:00 p.m. Official Opening and Welcome
- 1:10 p.m. Presentations
- 6:00 p.m. Reception at Chick and Yvonne Kellers home

Saturday August 9th

- 8:00 a.m. Field trips
- 8:30 a.m. Landscaping talk
- 9:30 a.m. Landscaping project and garden tours
- 9:30 a.m. Wildflower talk
- Noon LUNCH at UNMLA Activity Center
- 1:00 p.m. Presentations
- 6:30 p.m. Reception, Hilltop House
- 7:00 p.m. Society Dinner and Keynote Speaker

Sunday August 10th

- 8:30 a.m. Field Trips

Program Details

Held at UNMLA's Activity Center unless otherwise specified

Friday Morning August 8th

8:30-11:30 **Plant ID using computer databases**

Una Smith

Multiple entry keys are powerful tools for plant ID. See how they work and try them yourself; see how easy it is to make your own key. UNMLA Computer Center. Limit 10

8:30-11:30 **Bark Beetles and Fire on the Pajarito Plateau** *Tom Jervis*

Hike through forested woodlands to see effects of bark beetle infestation and the site of forest restoration efforts by Los Alamos County. Characteristic signs of past and present bark beetle attack and the role of fire in preserving the landscape will be discussed. Elevation change < 500 ft. Moderately strenuous 2 mile hike. Limit 25

8:30-10 **Ethnobotany in the Southwest**

Joyce Begay-Foss, Dir. Of Education Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

Native American perspectives on planting, harvesting and storage with emphasis on usage: dyes, medicines, etc.

8:30-11:30 **Plant Drawing Techniques**

Dorothy Hoard

Basic approaches to drawing plants. Bring a pad of 90-100 lb Bristol Board, #2 pencil, kneaded or plastic eraser, felt tip pen with waterproof ink (recommend MICRON 05). For information contact Dorothy Hoard at 11 Los Arboles, Los Alamos, NM 87544, 505-662-2662, dorothyh@swcp.com. Limit 20

11:30-1:00 **LUNCH** at UNMLA Activity Center

Friday Afternoon Talks (background for Saturday AM field trips)

1:00-1:10 **Welcome** *Lisa Mandelkern & Chick Keller*

1:10-1:40 **Landscaping Plants for Southern Rockies** *Sally Wasowski*

Slide show: how to use natives to create mountain gardens, based on NPSNM's new book, *Southern Rocky Mountain Gardens: A Native Plant Selection Guide for Elevations from 6500 to 9500 Feet.*

1:45- 2:25 **The Challenges of Alien Plant Invasions in New Mexico** *George Cox*

Nearly 750 species of alien plants occur in states bordering New Mexico, yet have not become established here. Most are the result of deliberate introductions to western North America, where ecological and evolutionary processes are converting some into invaders of natural ecosystems.

2:30 -3:10 **Out of the Ashes, A story of Natural Recovery from Wildfire**

Terry Foxx

The natural recovery of a forest after a wildfire and the impact of landscape loss on the recovery of people of the area.

3:15-3:55 **The New Mexico Fire Plan**

Fred Rossbach, Resource Protection Bureau Chief of NM Forestry Div.

After the disastrous 2000 fire season EMNRD, Forestry Division, implemented the "20 Community Strategy" to protect New Mexico communities most vulnerable to wildland fire. The effort can only be accomplished through partnerships with federal, state and local governments working with citizens in their backyards, with communities in the wildland/urban interface and with resource agencies in the forest lands.

4:00-4:40 **Community-Based Recovery: Creating an Educational Opportunity Out of Wildfire** *Volunteer task force/Craig Martin and Students*

After the Cerro Grande fire, emergency stabilization and continuing rehabilitation of the ponderosa pine forests around Los Alamos were largely done by Volunteer Task Force, many of them students from regional schools who got to do real science by monitoring the post-fire recovery and the effectiveness of treatments.

6:00-8 **Reception at the Keller's** (See map in your Meeting Packet)

Saturday Morning August 9th

Talks, Field Trips and Workshops

All field trips will depart from UNMLA parking lot

8:00-noon **Hike to Compare Post-Fire Recovery: Cerro Grande Fire (2000) and La Mesa Fire (1977)**

Terry Foxx & Dorothy Hoard

Compare an area that burned 26 years ago with an area burned by the Cerro Grande Fire three years ago. We will examine the flora and stage of recovery of each area. Wear good walking shoes. Hike is classified as moderate. Limit: 25

8:00-noon **Field ID of plants, East Fork of Jemez River** *Chick Keller & Bob Sivinski*

Splendid montane riparian setting at the height of its summer bloom--perhaps even fringed gentian! Easy walking, two miles. Limit 25

8:00 - noon **Field ID of plants, Rendija Canyon burn area** *Roger Peterson and Paul Fehlau*
See how native plants have recovered following devastating crown fires. Note how ash fertilizer has created huge plants and vigorous shrub growth. Moderate walking, two miles. Limit: 25

8:00- noon **Tour Emergency Treatments of Burned Watersheds: Re-establishing Vegetation**
Craig Martin

An overview of the types and effectiveness of treatments used by the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Team and the Volunteer Task Force to stabilize soils, prevent erosion, and restore vegetation following the Cerro Grande Fire. This will be a driving tour with four stops: an overlook of Cerro Grande, treatment areas along American Springs Road, flooding in Pajarito Canyon, and treatments near the Mitchell Trail head. Easy walk. Limit 25

8:00- noon **Rio Grande Bosque Restoration**
Bill Zeedyk

Walk and talk on induced meandering and riparian restoration. Location: Santa Clara creek near Espanola. Moderate to easy hike. Two hours. Limit 25

8:30-9:30 **Let Nature Be Your Guide: Designing a Garden Appropriate to its Setting**
Judith Phillips

Sampling the biomes of New Mexico; finding patterns to use in designing gardens that fit their immediate environment. Talk is at the Ehart Center. Limit 20

9:30-- noon **Landscaping project at The Betty Ehart Senior Center: The Process of Designing a Native Landscape** *Judith Phillips*

From site analysis to plant selection, we will move through the process of designing a native plant landscape for the Senior Center. (Follows the talk) Limit: 25

9:30-noon **Los Alamos Residential Gardens Tour**
Joan West, Ellen Wilde, Sally Wasowski

We will tour several fine xeric gardens which combine N.M. native plants with others from around the Southwest. Tour leaves from the Ehart Center. Limit 20

9:30-10:30 **Photo Tour of the Spring Wildflowers of the Santa Fe National Forest**
Jeanie Higgins

Jeanie has been photographing wildflowers in the riparian habitats above 9000 feet in the Santa Fe National Forest for over 5 years and will take you on a visual tour of her favorite places and visually share with you some of her favorite flowers. UNMLA Conference Room.

Noon-1:00 LUNCH at UNMLA Activity Center

Saturday Afternoon Talks

1:00-2:00 **Herbaria in New Mexico** *Kelly Allred, Bill Norris, Rich Spellenberg, Tim Lowrey*

Herbaria across the nation are being lost or reduced. Preservation of specimens is essential to understanding the state of our native plants. What is the status of the major herbaria in New Mexico and what can NPSNM do to enhance them?

2:00--3:00 **Human and natural disturbance histories of native plant communities of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the surrounding Jemez Mountains**
Craig Allen

Historical ecology of local landscapes, noting the effects of such disturbances as grazing, road-building, fire suppression, logging, droughts, and recent unnaturally severe fires on local plant communities.

3:00-3:15 **Break**

3:15--4:15 **General Floristic Survey of the Valles Caldera National Preserve**
Ronald L. Hartmann, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming

Botanical inventory conducted on the Caldera during the summers of 2001 and 2002. Additional work to be carried out in 2003.

4:15--4:45 **Drought and Mortality Impacts to Native Plants of the Los Alamos Region.**
Randy G. Balice

Recent drought in the Southwest has been associated with increased tree mortality in our forests and woodlands. In addition to altering the demographics of native tree species, this sequence of events will also impact populations of other plant species.

6:30-7:00 **Reception, Hilltop House**

7:00 **Dinner, Keynote, Dr. Gary Ziehe, "The Valles Caldera Preserve"**

Sunday August 10th Field Trips, 8:30 AM

1. **Valles Caldera National Preserve** *Jonathan Coop, Ron Hartmann, et al.*

Those actively involved in restoration projects around the state will be interested in touring the actual preserve. Small bus tour to selected sites to show effects of long-term grazing. Transportation fee \$10.00. Limit 50

2. **Sangre de Cristo Wildflower Tour** *George Cox*
An easy-walking visit to spruce-fir forest, aspen groves and stream-side meadows in vicinity of Santa Fe Ski Basin. Well over 170 species including orchids and gentians. Limit 25

3. Montane Wildflowers

B. Jacobs, E. Jacobs, B. Sivinski

Bandelier Nat. Monument; Upper Alamo-Rabbit Mountain. Explore the newest addition to Bandelier National Monument, hiking through a mix of montane meadow and mixed conifer forest with views of the Valles Caldera and Rio Grande valley. Elev. change from 8900-9700 ft. and 4 miles roundtrip; strenuous; Limit 25

4. Trip to Leonora Curtin Reclamation Area

Mark Kaltenbach

See one of Santa Fe's remaining wetlands where Botanical Garden Club is removing invasives and planting natives. Easy one mile walk. ADA accessible. Two hours, Limit 25

5. Elk/Vegetation Interactions

Steve Fettig

Browsing and grazing by elk influence the structure of some plant communities. We will visit a series of locations between 8000 and 9200 feet where these influences can be seen. Terrain is gentle, but the air is thin; walk is low to moderate in difficulty. Carpooling. No pets. Limit 16

Motel Arrangements



We have chosen the **Best Western Hilltop House** as the primary motel, with additional accommodations at the **Los Alamos Inn** and the **Holiday Inn Express**. All are conveniently located on Trinity Drive (the main street through town). The special convention rates are: \$59.00, \$71.00 and \$71.00 respectively. The Hilltop House rate includes breakfast and use of the spa and pool. Please call for reservations before July 1, 2003 and mention the NPSNM convention for this special rate: Hilltop House: 400 Trinity Dr. (505) 662-1106, Los Alamos Inn: 2201 Trinity Dr. (505) 662-7211, and Holiday Inn Express: 2455 Trinity Dr. (505) 661-1110. A list of other accommodations may be obtained from the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce (505) 662-8105

REGISTRATION FORM

**Please Complete Separate Form for EACH ATTENDEE. Send Form & Check to:
NPSNM Annual Meeting, c/o Mimi Hubby, 525 Camino Cabra, Santa Fe NM 87505**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Chapter _____

Indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd preferences

Friday a.m.

- Computer ID Plant Drawing Bark Beetles

Saturday a.m.

- Landscaping/Phillips Post Fire Recovery
- Watersheds Garden Tour
- Bosque Restoration Rendija Canyon Burn
- East Fork of Jemez

Sunday a.m.

- Valles Caldera National Preserve
- Sangre de Cristo Flowers
- Montane/Bandelier Flowers
- Leonora Curtin Reclamation
- Elk/Vegetation Interactions

REGISTRATION \$55.00

Early Registration (before July 1, \$50)

VCNP Transportation Fee \$10.00

Total Sent \$ _____

**Make check payable to:
NPSNM Annual Meeting 2003**

Registration fee includes 2 lunches (UNMLA Cafeteria), Friday Reception, Saturday Banquet. Cancellation policy: \$45 refund if cancelled by July 25.

For Questions Contact
Chick Keller 505-662-7915
alfanso@cybermesa.com
or Truel West 505-988-9621

Chapter Activities & Events

ALBUQUERQUE

Programs at Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE, 7 PM.

April 3. "Gardening with Native Plants." Panel discussion moderated by David Cristiani, LA.

April 23. Set-up for Garden Center Plant Sale, 11 AM to 5 PM

April 26. Spring Plant Sale, 9 AM to 4 PM

May 1. "Science Fair Presentations." Winners will show how they use natives in their own gardens.

June 5. "Wildflowers of the Zuni Mts." Judy Dain, member and volunteer at the Natural History Museum Herbarium.

June 7. All day field trip with Judy Dain to Zuni Mts. Meet at 8 AM at Smith's parking lot, NE corner of Menaul & Carlisle.

EL PASO (Texas)

Programs 2nd Thursdays at the Centennial Museum on the UTEP campus, 7 PM.

April 5. Desert Landscaping workshop (9-12 AM) organized by Wynn Anderson.

April 5. Tour Local Wildscape Gardens led by Betty Brown.

April 10. "Preview of Native Plant Sale." Wynn Anderson.

April 25-26. Native Plant Sale at Centennial Museum (UTEP) 8 AM to 5 PM both days

May 8. "Landscaping for Wildlife." Lois Balin, Urban Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

June 12. "Ancient Climates of the Borderlands." Dr. Arthur H. Harris, Dept. of Biological Sciences, UTEP.

GILA (Silver City)

Programs at Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus, 7 PM. Field trips meet at 8 AM in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Center.

April 20. Field trip. Florida Mts. in Deming.

April 25. Pick up pre-ordered native plants at Community Built Park, 1-5 PM.

April 25. "Native Plant Gardening in Southern New Mexico." Lisa Mandelkern, Pres. of NPSNM.

April 26. Earth Day Native Plant Sale. 10-3 at Community Built Park.

May 11. Field trip. Stroll through San Vicente Creek (Big Ditch South) in Silver City.

June 15. Field trip. Bead Springs in Mogollon Mts.

LAS CRUCES

Programs 2nd Wednesdays in Conference Room of the Social Center at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle at 7 PM.

April 9. "Desert Roses." Lisa Mandelkern and Terry Peterson present slides of blooming cacti of the Jarilla Mts.

April 12. Field Trip to Jarilla Mts. Led by Lisa and Terry. Meet at Pan Am Center parking lot on University Ave. at 9 AM. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen.

May 10. Field trip to Ropes Springs in the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge. Go from Chihuahuan scrub to piñon-juniper at higher elevations. Meet at North Main K-Mart parking lot at 8 AM. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen.

May 17. Garden tour. Visit native plant gardens owned by chapter members. Details TBA.

June 11. "Endangered and Threatened Native Plants on WSMR." Dr. David Anderson, botanist and WSMR land mgr.

June 14. Field trip. Caballo Mts. Led by John Freyermuth and Carolyn Gressitt. Mostly a driving trip to see broad range of flora, from cacti to ponderosa pines. Meet at K-Mart parking lot at 8 AM. Lunch, water, sunscreen.

SACRAMENTO MTS (Ruidoso)

Field trips meet at 9 AM at Nob Hill. Bring lunch.

April 19. Field trip. Valley of the Fires Recreation Area. Led by Johnson Sterns, 84-year old historian and BLM volunteer.

May 17. Field trip. Sid Goodloe ranch near Capitan.

June 21. "Landscaping for Wildlife." Nancy Daniel, at Nob Hill School, 9 AM. Hike to follow. Bring lunch.

SAN JUAN (Farmington)

Programs 3rd Thursdays at 7 PM. Locations will be announced.

April 17. Speaker & program TBA.

May 17. Field trip to Navajo Nation reservation near 4 Corners. Led by Arnold Clifford and Ken Heil. Meet at San Juan College clock tower parking lot — leaving at 9 AM. Bring water and dress for possible cold wind.

June 21. Field trip focusing on invasive species. Location and details TBA.

SANTA FE

3rd Wednesdays, 7:10 PM Intro to Plant ID/Flower Walk, 7:30 PM Lecture.

April 16. "Otero Mesa: Special Natural Place that Needs Protecting." Nathan Newcomer, Evans Science Bldg, Rm 122, St. John's College.

May 21. "Flowers of Bandelier National Monument." Brian Jacobs, Audubon Society Mtg Rm, Randall Davey House, Canyon Road.

June 18. "Native American Garden Design at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture." Joyce Begay-Foss, Audubon Society Meeting Room, Randall Davey House, Canyon Road.

TAOS

Programs 2nd Wednesdays at San Geronimo Lodge, 7 PM.

April 9. "Waterwise Landscaping." Jean Balliet MLA ASLA, owner Stone Madre, design & build stonework & landscapes.

April-May. Field trip. Lama burn revisit, led by George Long. Date TBA.

May 8. "Grow Canyon, Mesa & Mountain Cacti." Todd Bates, Native Plant Recycling.

June 12. "Designing the Native Landscape." Author & landscape designer Sally Wasowski. May coordinate with field trip to members' gardens, TBA.

June 23. Field trip. Local herb gardens, including John Ubelaker's in Ft. Burgwin. Led by Charles Martin. Details TBA.



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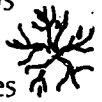
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CONSERVATION CORNER

by Jim Nellessen

We Know It's Important to Protect Our Wetlands; Jim Tells Us Why.

Wetlands are habitats that contain a certain assemblage of plant species capable of surviving and growing under very damp, saturated, or inundated soil conditions. They generally occur around the fringes of lakes, ponds, streams and rivers, but also at springs, in isolated playas, drainage basins, even roadside ditches where water collects for extended periods of time during the growing season. The open, deeper waters of ponds and lakes are not wetlands. Wetlands have emergent vegetation, i.e., vegetation extending well above the surface of the water. Wetlands have an official or legal definition from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, who are responsible for their management and protection. They are officially defined to have the following three essential characteristics:

- 1) Dominance by hydrophytic vegetation
- 2) Hydric soils
- 3) Wetland hydrology.

Hydrophytic (literally "water plants") vegetation requires inundated or saturated soils. Hydric soils are ponded or flooded for a sufficient time during the growing season to develop anaerobic (i.e. without oxygen) conditions. Wetland hydrology is the availability of surface water or groundwater to create the wetland environment.

Some typical wetland plants in New Mexico are broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), narrow-leaved cattail (*T. angustifolia*), three-square bulrush (*Scirpus americanus*), tule bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), and spike rushes (*Eleocharis* spp.). The names of the two cattail species define their leaf characteristics, but sometimes this is not always so obvious. A definitive characteristic is to look at the flowering stalks or "cattails." The obvious brown flower/seed cluster is the main part of the cattail — these are the female parts — while the male flowers occur on the same stalk, but above the female parts. If there is a clear gap (1/2 inch or more) on the stalk between the female and male flowers, then you are looking at the narrow-leaved cattail. Many wetland and aquatic plants have spongy-like stems due to a tissue called aerenchyma, which contains lots of air spaces that transport oxygen from the upper parts

of the plant down to the roots, to help compensate for the lack of oxygen within the root zone.

Wetlands are fragile habitats that need to be protected as they are heavily impacted by humans and the animals we manage. We gravitate toward water, especially in arid climates where these waters are even more inviting. I grew up in Minnesota, exposed to wetlands and water all over the place. I watched the spring migration of frogs from the lake to the swamp across the street, then back again for the winter. This doesn't happen anymore; the swamp was drained and dried up. Today, even though the swamp returned, the frogs did not.

Cattle in New Mexico gravitate to the water for obvious reasons, to drink. Native wildlife are likewise highly dependent on perennial water supplies. Unlike native wildlife, once cattle find water, they tend to *stay there* and munch everything into oblivion. I have seen highway right-of-way "ROW" fence lines that run straight through the middle of wetlands. On the highway side is lush healthy wetland vegetation, and beyond the fence is completely bare muddy ground, not a speck of vegetation anywhere! Sometimes vegetation within highway "ROWS" becomes quite disturbed because of various construction projects, although many ROWs serve as excellent refuges for plants, especially when management on the *other side* of the fence is nonexistent.

Wetlands serve as environmental filters and water "purifiers," trapping and recycling nutrients. Wetlands along riparian corridors tend to be dynamic, moving back and forth as the river channel moves. Degraded and destroyed wetlands can be restored or reconstructed. Many wetland species are pretty hardy — they just need that saturated soil condition. Fencing wetlands to keep cattle out is one solution, but is unsightly.

If we could somehow breed mobility into cattle, that would be an improvement. Or perhaps, in a sagging economy, we can create new jobs herding cattle, keeping them on the move. Lots of people talk about getting back to a simple life, or spending more time outdoors. Sounds like the perfect job, outside on the range herding cattle!

Next time you're out by a lake, river, or stream, fishing, birding, or simply hiking, look for wetlands. Bring your favorite plant book and learn who your wetland plant neighbors are.

Book Reviews

THE GOOD IN NATURE AND HUMANITY

Connecting Science, Religion, and Spirituality with the Natural World

Edited by Stephen R. Kellert & Timothy J. Farnham
Island Press 2002, ISBN 1-55963-838-9 \$28.00

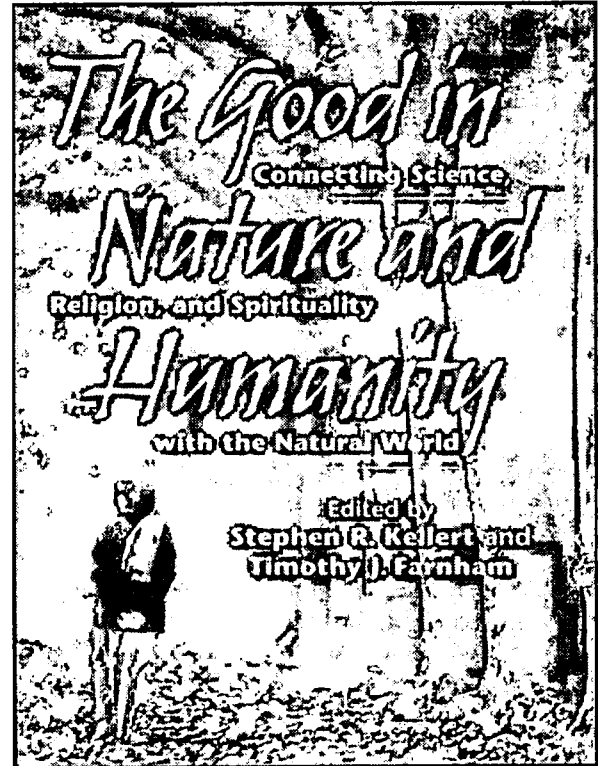
Jack L. Carter

For almost all of my adult life I have considered the human activities of education, science, the arts, and conservation critical to my future and to the future of all living things. I have practically constructed my very existence around these areas of inquiry. At the same time, in my daily life, I never took other systems such as economics, religion, or politics very seriously. Sure, I vote, but I don't have great trust in the forthrightness of most of those who run for political office. Religion always seemed too far-fetched, mystical, difficult to believe, and just bad science. Money and business are important, within limits, but I always considered enjoying my work far more important than the salary.

In recent years I have come to the realization that my belief system is some distance off the norm of many of my friends and enemies. This has result-

ed in my attempting to understand and make connections with some of those other belief systems I long placed on the back burner.

In all honesty, my reason for wanting to reach out is not based on my interest in sacrificing my beliefs, but in promoting them among a wider audience. I believe that without some level of consensus among people in education, the sciences, economics, and religion as to the latest





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Value, humankind is doomed. It seems to me a growing number of people recognize that we are, as a species, responsible for most of the destruction that is taking place on the planet. We take and destroy much more of the earth's resources than we return to the earth's environment. At the same time we must admit that neither science nor spirituality separately has all the answers to the crises confronting humanity and the millions of other living organisms that have evolved on this planet.

As I have attempted to learn more about the beliefs that others use to hold their lives together, I have been forced to turn to the published works of a wide range of scholars — people who encourage us to bring science, conservation, politics, economics, and religion into relationships that will protect planet earth while extending the future of *Homo sapiens*.

For this reason I encourage interested members of the NPSNM to consider *The Good in Nature and Humanity: Connecting Science, Religion, and Spirituality with the Natural World*, edited by Stephen R. Kellert and Timothy J. Farnham.

Written by twenty serious thinkers, *The Good in Nature and Humanity* is the result of a conference organized in May 2000 by a group of scholars from a wide range of schools, societies, and organizations — e.g., the Yale School of Forestry and the Environment, the Yale University School of Divinity, the Wilderness Society, and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment — that are committed to communicating across those barriers that have existed between science and Christianity from the Inquisition up to the present.

I was struck by the way those with deep scientific integrity — especially when it comes to the recognized lack of any human purpose and absence of ethics in nature — were able to listen to those who see good in nature and humanity. Reading several of the chapters reminded me of my student days when we were encouraged by philosophy professors to consider the works of Teilhard de Chardin, C. P. Snow, Lynn White, and Ian Barbour to find a meaningful relationship between our research and the human belief in purpose. At that time most graduate students in the natural sciences had one purpose: to graduate and get a good job where we could teach our science, continue our

research interests, and talk to each other and a few select students. The last thing we were seeking in our research was anything that might smell of ethical, religious, economic, or social values. If we were interested in those ideas, we were told we should be over in the social sciences or humanities departments. Perhaps we are beginning to recognize that the science of ecology, and the study of natural history and conservation, collectively, have a much more important human and earth value component than we previously could admit.

From the get-go, as I read this book I was determined to set aside my personal feelings against the limited view of the world as presented in the Genesis story and to search for a larger religious perspective. I was not disappointed. The essays by Ursula Goodenough, Stephen Kellert, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Wendell Berry, and Dorian Sagan and Lynn Margulis made basic connections that now appear to me as possibilities. The most important point is that Christianity and most other religious faiths encourage us to treat the earth — including the flora, fauna, land, water, and air — with respect and to live within limits. Wendell Berry's chapter, "The Idea of a Local Economy," reminded me that the devil rests much more in our economic and political systems, and that science and religion probably could and should join together in the development of an earth ethic. The idea of sharing our knowledge and personal wealth with all other species, and living within the biologic limits earth provides, makes good scientific and religious sense.

Finally, as a continuation of Berry's ideas, I was reminded of another powerful publication — *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, by Lester R. Brown (W. W. Norton & Co., ISBN 0-393-32193-2). Here we find a book that brings meaning and reality to solid information concerning the earth and the human condition. Brown, one of the world's most influential thinkers concerning the environment, is optimistic that with some restructuring in our economic system in order to give consideration to the knowledge we have of planet earth, we can see our economy continue to grow. *Eco-Economy* has been described as a road map of how we get from here to there.

If any of you have read these books, or read them in the future, I would enjoy hearing from you.

JLC

THE NAKED GARDENER

Excerpted from Associated Press story, 8-9-02

Flash!

The Pennsylvania Superior Court has overturned the harassment conviction of Charlie Stitzer, 64, who has a habit of tending his backyard garden in the nude.

Stitzer, of Pleasant Gap (honest!), Pennsylvania, was convicted in December 2000 of indecent exposure after his neighbor, Pam Watkins, complained that she and her 15-year-old daughter had seen Stitzer gardening in nothing but shoes and a wristwatch. Stitzer was sentenced to two-years probation.

However, the Superior Court threw out the conviction in March, saying that Stitzer's backyard was private and that the neighbors were too far away - 65 yards - to have seen anything offensive.

Stitzer said that he first started gardening in the nude to persuade Watkins to dim her outdoor floodlights that shone toward his property.

Cont'd from front page

From 1993 to 2000, Gary served as Senator Pete V. Domenici's chief advisor on agriculture and natural resources and was primary staff liaison to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He also served as lead staff for Senator Domenici on the development and enactment of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, which led to the acquisition and establishment of the Preserve.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Gary graduated from Texas A&M in 1982 with a B.S. in Range Science. Upon graduation, he worked as a ranch hand on a large Hereford ranch in Harding County, New Mexico, then returned to Texas A&M as foreman of the Animal Science Department Beef Cattle Center in 1984. He has an M.S. in Animal Breeding from Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D. in Animal Breeding and Reproduction from Oklahoma State University. Upon completion of his graduate work, Gary was awarded the Federation of American Societies of Food Animal Sciences Congressional Science Fellowship for 1993-94, where he served in the office of Senator Domenici.

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