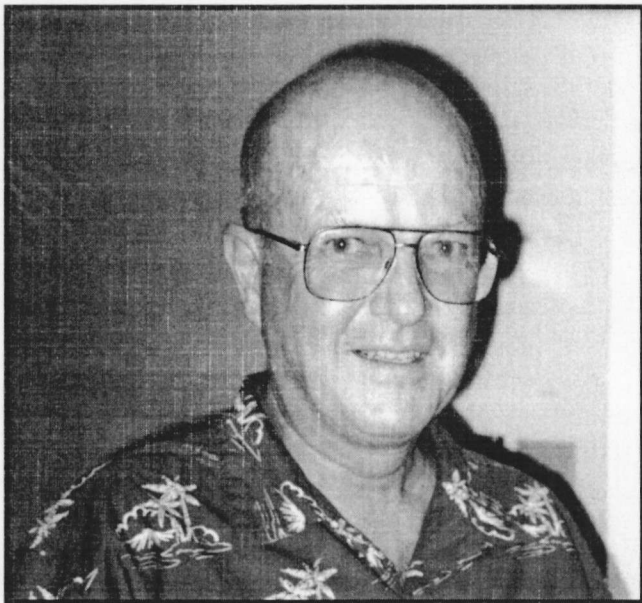


Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NEWSLETTER

April, May, June 2004 Volume XXIX Number 2

Richard Spellenberg to Encore Keynote at Alamogordo Meeting



What happens when you deliver a rousing keynote address? You get asked back again! Dr. Richard Spellenberg, keynoter at the NPSNM's 2000 Las Cruces annual meeting, will once again address us, this time in Alamogordo. His talk will be "*Plant Diversity and Relationships in the South-Central New Mexico Region.*"

Dr. Spellenberg received his Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Washington in 1968. He then came to Las Cruces to take a teaching/research position at NMSU, and to curate their herbarium. Over the years he has taught a range of biology courses, and the NMSU herbarium has grown from 40,000 to 70,000 specimens. *Cont'd Page 11*

Xeriscaping Officially OK in Albuquerque

On February 1st, the Albuquerque City Council, in a 6-3 vote, approved a bill that had been proposed by City Councilman Martin Heinrich that would prohibit enforcement of restrictive covenants that stop homeowners from removing grass to put in a xeriscape.

"All homeowners should be allowed to save water by using drought-tolerant plants," Heinrich said. "People are really taking water conservation seriously."

A property-owners association could, however, still have a covenant requiring that up to 20 percent of a yard be high-water use grass.

The bill now goes to Mayor Martin Chavez, who has said that he will sign it. Opponents of the bill says that covenants protect property values and give subdivisions a uniform look. (*Ed: Isn't that the problem with sub-divisions?*)

INSIDE

- Chihuahuan Workshops...pg 2
- Nice Idea from Texas NPS...pg 4
- EPA Cozy with Chem Industry...pg 4
- Drought Poetry...pg 5
- Activities & Events...pg 6
- Conservation Corner...pg 13
- Dry Climate Book Review...pg 14
- **2004 Registration Form...pg 15**
- Native Plant Society Genesis...pg 16

“Having recently passed the great age of biogeography, we will have entered the age *after* biogeography, in that virtually everything will live virtually everywhere, though the list of species that constitute ‘everything’ will be small...Earth will be a different sort of place - soon in just five or six human generations.

My label for that place, that time, that unavoidable prospect, is the Planet of the Weeds.”

David Quammen
*Invasive Exotic Species in
the Sonoran Region*

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

January-March Newsletter Goes Astray

The New Year got off to a rocky start — at least as far as the NPSNM Newsletter was concerned. While the Las Cruces and Gila Chapters got their copies on time — December 26 and 27 — the rest of us didn’t receive our copies until mid-January.

Thanks to John Freyermuth and Carolyn Gressitt, who handle the all-important task of mailing out our newsletter, we found out what had gone amiss. John and Carolyn heroically took on the U. S. Government (i.e., The Las Cruces Post Office) and discovered that, although the bundles of newsletters had been sent out before Christmas, the majority of them went to Albuquerque, where they sat. And sat! Blame the Christmas logjam (or mailjam) and the fact that bulk mail does not get priority treatment.

2005 Annual Meeting

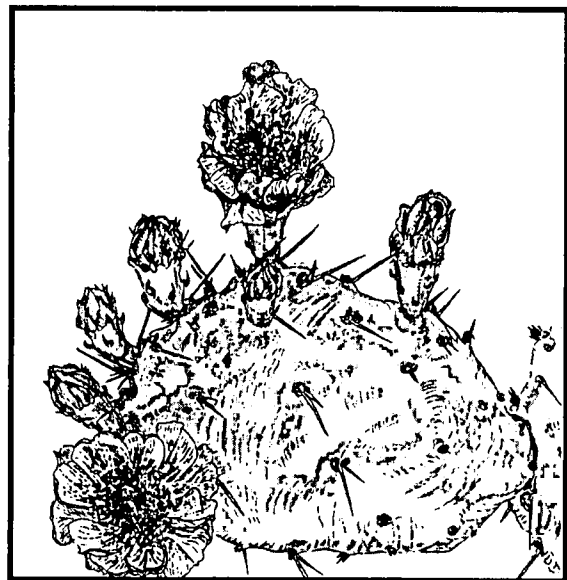
The Sacramento Mountains Chapter announced at the last board meeting that it would not be able to host the 2005 annual meeting of the NPSNM. But fear not — the meeting will go on — elsewhere. Tiana Scott, President of the Albuquerque Chapter said they would be delighted to host that meeting.

Chihuahuan Desert Native Plant Conservation Initiative - April 2004

The Carlsbad Caverns/Guadalupe Mountains Association will sponsor its annual second creative, on-the-trail native plant conservation workshops for naturalists, artists, and writers at Carlsbad Caverns National Park throughout April.

Wildflower blooming will be at its peak from the upper reaches of Walnut Canyon Drive where the red, tri-lobed Woolly Paintbrush and White-Eyed Phlox thrive, along the extensive Visitor Center Nature Walk with its profusions of Claret-Cup Cacti, and deep into some of the most picturesque canyons in the region.

NPSNM/Carlsbad chapter members, Sandra Lynn, Rick Wiedenmann and Don Davidson will lead the "Interdisciplinary Native Plant Study Group" at the Ship of the Desert on the weekend of April 17-18. Dave Ferguson, Curator of the Rio Grande Botanical Garden will teach "Which Cactus Is This?" April 10, and Emily Buehler will lead "Native Plant Lore" on April 24. Renowned photographer, Gustav W. Verderber, will lead a wildflower photoshoot on Sunday, April 25. Sessions begin at 8AM.



Generous support comes from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sul Ross University, and New Mexico State University/Carlsbad. Last year's pilot project was funded in part by NPSNM.

For a complete schedule of events and more details, contact **Paula Bauer**, tel: 505-785-3131, e-mail: paula_bauer@nps.gov. Or go to their website: <http://www.ccgma.org/indexnew.htm>.

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Technical Reference 1730-3 (December 2003)
is on Idaho's external web at the following site:

www.id.blm.gov/publications/TR%201730-3/

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 1, 2004

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.

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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
Friend of Society.....	\$30
Supporting Member.....	\$50
Sponsor.....	\$100
Patron.....	\$250
Benefactor.....	\$500
Life Member.....	\$1,000
Limited Income, Family, Students & Seniors (65+).....	\$12

Endowment contribution \$ _____
Total \$ _____

*Make your check payable to
NPSNM
and send to*

**Membership Secretary
P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**

A NICE! IDEA FROM NPSOT

The Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) has come up with a program to encourage homeowners to landscape with native plants. Called NICE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics!), the program works with local nurseries that feature a different native plant each month. Five local nurseries agreed to cooperate right away, and a sixth joined the program a few months later.

As with all good ideas, promotion and publicity are vital to success. The Boerne Chapter found support in *The Boerne Star* and *The Hill Country Recorder*. *The Recorder*, after publishing an article on NICE!, agreed to run a biweekly column on the Boerne Chapter's activities.

Any NPSNM Chapter interested in learning more about NICE! with an eye toward trying it in their community, should contact Bill Ward, founding President of the Boerne Chapter and the coiner of the NICE! acronym. You can reach him at 210-698-3421 or wckaw@aol.com.

Chemical Industry and EPA Working Together to Weaken Endangered Species Act

A recently filed lawsuit asserts that the Bush Administration is allowing the chemical industry to lobby secretly and illegally inside the Environmental Protection Agency in order to circumvent current protections for endangered species and, thus, make it easier for the chemical industry to gain approval for the use of certain pesticides.

The lawsuit alleges that the industry group, representing 14 agrochemical companies (including Monsanto, Dupont, Dow AgroSciences and Uni-Royal Chemical Co.), is meeting behind closed doors with EPA officials in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Federal "sunshine" laws require that such meetings be open to members of the public.

The industry strategy, according to internal documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, is to stop the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries from serving as oversight experts as to whether a pesticide poses a risk to wildlife. The lawsuit asks that the EPA be ordered to comply with the open-meeting rules.

In Memoriam



Pat Lanik

Pat Lanik, founding member of the Sacramento Mountains Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, died of pancreatic cancer on Nov. 22, 2003 after a brief illness.

Born in Mathis, Texas, she graduated from Southwest Texas State Teacher's College (now Texas State University) in San Marcos, Texas, in 1960, and married Robert Henry Lanik.

For over 25 years, Pat taught English and business classes in San Antonio, McAllen and Corpus Christi, Texas. She retired in 1994 and moved to Cloudcroft, NM. In 1998 Bob and Pat moved to Ruidoso.

Besides helping found the Sacramento Mountains Chapter, she served as its secretary and book chair and represented the chapter at various events including Mayfair in Cloudcroft and the Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache.

A gifted gardener, Pat contributed to a number of garden projects in the Ruidoso community, including the Native Plant Society's Nob Hill Early Childhood Center Native Plant Educational Garden, the Ruidoso Senior Center, the Lincoln County Medical Center garden and other planting and beautification projects in the community.

This year the Native Plant Society, together with the Noon Lion's Club, will place a bench in the Nob Hill Garden in memory of Pat.

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P.O.Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004

Ed: Bob Proctor of the Alamogordo Chapter was inspired to write the following poem in response to our State's drought. Thanks, Bob.

"Some days, my spirit lies prostrate"

Crisped, dirt-brown poplar leaves
clatter in a desultory hot breeze.
A death rattle.

I rope-pull branch bones
from upper heights of this tree,
two months ago
a regal, dynamic green thrust
towards a welcoming sky.

Nearby, a Russian olive,
a few shriveled berries clinging
to leafless limbs,
dies.

Closer to a shade-giving wall,
an apple tree survives, barely,
its fruit no larger than marbles,
desiccated, tasteless.

Last year's ebullient cluster of cosmos,
then a burst
of vibrant pinks and reds,
does not exist.
Some runts remain.
A stunted bud opened today.
Three delicate rays appeared . . .
and shriveled to nothingness by noon.

The halogen-altered water I
provide hurts rather than helps.
A young globe willow,
root soil saturated with
man-made brackishness,
wilts and dies before my eyes.

An unnatural tan,
like we see in rotting plants,
is spreading,
a larger form of cancer,
gutting the hearts
of our succulents.

The same torrid,
moisture-deprived winds
that blew last night
under angry, rainless clouds
continue today, as they did
yesterday,
and most of the weeks
before yesterday,
fire hot,
Death Valley dry.

Some days, my spirit
lies prostrate.

Bob Proctor, originally from Santa Fe and now living in La Luz, New Mexico, is a retired Foreign Service Officer who served in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. His poems, short stories and essays have been published in a number of journals including *Border Senses*, *Serape*, *New Writers and Poets of Las Cruces*, *The Inkspot* and *Sparrow Forum*; and, on websites including Lunarosity, Facing Faces, 100 Poets Against War, and Suite 101.

Chapter Activities & Events

ALBUQUERQUE

2nd Thursdays at 7 PM at Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE.

April 1. *"Dyes from Native Plants."* Tiana Scott. Science Fair Awards (Gene Jercinovic-Chairman)

April 23. Set-up for Saturday Plant Sale

April 24. Spring Plant Sale, 9 AM to 4 PM Patio Room

May 6. *"EEK! A BUG!--Pest or Pal in Your Garden."*

Richard Fagerlund Albuquerque *Journal's* "Bugman."

May 21. Albuquerque Garden Center Dedication, 4 PM.

May 22. Garden Tour TBD.

June 3. *"Mushrooms of New Mexico."* Ruth Bronson.

June. Field Trip to mine reclamation area, led by Robin Tierney. Date TBA

CARLSBAD

Programs at Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park

April 10. *"Which Cactus is this?"* Dave Ferguson, Curator, Rio Grande Botanical Garden, Albuquerque, NM.

April 17-18. Interdisciplinary Native Plant Course, NMSU-Carlsbad at 8 AM. See Page 2 for details.

April 24. *"Lore of the Native Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert."* Emily Buehler, folklore contributor to *Canyons and Caves*.

April 25. Wildflower Photography. Gustav W. Verderber, <http://www.SojournsInNature.com>.

Sketch Hike: Moderate one-way three-mile hike from CAVE Visitor Center to White City observing and drawing cacti and other native plants along the Guano Road trail. Donald Davidson and William Reid, Ph.D., Chihuahuan Desert Network. Wednesday School Visits. **April 7, 14, 21, 28;** for Eddy County, NM Public Schools, 5th through 12th grades: Tips and techniques for drawing flowers. Donald Davidson. Contact Ranger Frosty Bennett at 915-828-3251 ext. 118 to arrange an "Artist School Visit" to your classroom.

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 16. *"Plants and Your Allergies."* Mary O'Loughlin.
April 18. Field trip. A look at the vegetation at Ft Bowie in Arizona.

April 23. Plant pick-up for preorders of native plants at Community Built Park, 1-5 PM.

April 24. Earth Day Native Plant Sale. 10-3 at Community Built Park.

May 16. Field trip. Plants along Purgatory Trail near Lake Roberts.

June 13. Field trip. The unique environment of McMillan Campground north of Pinos Altos.

LAS CRUCES

Meetings/Programs on Wednesdays, 7 PM, in Conference Rm of Social Center at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

April 14. *"Creosote: Controversial Chemist of the Desert."* Dr. Paul Hyder.

April 17. Walk in Tom Mays State Park led by Dr. Hyder. Meet at Bank of the Rio Grande parking lot on University and Telshor at 7:30 AM.

May 12. *"Botanical Journey Through Venezuela."* Dr. Donovan Bailey, plant systematist at NMSU.

May 15. Walk in Monticello Canyon, led by Wilma Hutson. Meet at North Main K-Mart parking lot at 7:30 AM.

June 9. *"Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park."* Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Director of CDNP.

June 12. Field trip to Sacramento Mountains. Primarily a driving experience to "beat the heat." Meet at North Main K-Mart parking lot at 7:30 AM.

OTERO

April 24. Annual Native Plant Sale. 8 AM to 1 PM, Garden Center at 10th and Oregon in Alamogordo. Contact Helgi Osterreich (585-3315) or John Stockert (585-2546).

May 1. Ranger-led plant hike to Hueco Tanks State Historical Park (Texas). Home to some plants not found in the surrounding Chihuahuan desert. The park is about 32 miles east of El Paso, off Hwy 62/180. Meet at 7:30 AM in the old Wal-Mart parking lot at Hwy 54/70 intersection on south side of Alamogordo. Bring water and lunch. A park entrance fee (group rate) will be charged. E-mail or call Helgi.

June 5. Hike the Osha Trail, Sacramento Mountains. Led by Helgi Osterreich. Meet at 9 AM at the trailhead on Hwy 82, across from the Mexican Canyon trestle, just west of Cloudcroft less than one mile. This loop route is 2 miles through mainly forest. It is not strenuous except for elevation, which varies between 8,400 – 8,665 feet. Steepest at the beginning where it quickly climbs 160 feet in elevation over good trail and steps. Bring water and lunch.

SAN JUAN (Farmington)

Apr. 15: *"Xeriscaping."* Nancy Rominger-Abe, San Juan College, Room 1008, 7 PM.

May & June: TBA

SANTA FE

All talks (excepting the April 15th one) are at 7:30 PM at the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Upper Canyon Road. Talks are preceded by beginners' plant identification at 7:10 PM

April 15. *"Water Conscious Gardening with Native Plants in Northern New Mexico."* Sally & Andy Wasowski, Authors and Native Plant Specialists. 7:00 PM, Los Alamos Public Library, Meeting Rm. #3 (upstairs) Los Alamos, NM.

Cont'd Page 11

CONIFERS TO CACTI

NPSNM State Meeting * Alamogordo* August 6 - 8, 2004

This year's State Meeting, "From Conifers to Cacti: the Diversity of Flora in Otero County", will highlight the variety of flora and geological formations in Otero County. Six of the seven life zones of the world are represented in the 8,100-foot elevation change from the Tularosa Basin to the peak of Sierra Blanca.



A program of wide appeal that expands on the theme has been assembled. The expertise of more than 40 professional and experienced individuals has been enlisted to head the activities. No matter where you live in New Mexico or West Texas, you'll find something of interest.

White Sands National Monument, Lincoln National Forest, and Oliver Lee Memorial State Park are all close by. Although activities are planned in each, you may wish to spend more time at those areas that appeal to you the most. Providing we have adequate rain early in July, wildflower and native plant displays in all areas should be outstanding.

Meetings, book sales, the silent auction, workshops, lectures, and panel discussions are scheduled to be held at New Mexico State University - Alamo (NMSU-A). The beautiful and modern campus is located in the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains at the eastern edge of Alamo. Facilities are wheelchair accessible. Food service will be available. Workshops, lectures, and field trips are scheduled concurrently in the mornings. Panel discussions and youth workshops are the main features for Friday and Saturday afternoons.

As a special treat, the Cooking Wild Group will be preparing a smorgasbord of native edibles for you to sample at the reception Friday evening. Those of you who have attended one of their workshops

know what a culinary delight this is. If you haven't, you're in for a delectable experience.

Registration begins at 2:00PM on Thursday to give you plenty of opportunity to become familiar with the location of the meeting site and visit the scenic or cultural attractions of your interest. For those of you arriving after 8:00PM, registration continues at NMSU-A on Friday and Saturday.

Since several of the offered activities have limited participation, sign up early to insure inclusion in those that interest you the most. Even if you have never attended a State Meeting, you'll want to make plans to be here in August. Join other members of our society in an enjoyable and educational time together.

Overview of the Meeting

Thursday, August 5th

2:00PM Early Registration and Hospitality Room at Holiday Inn Express

Friday, August 6th

7:30AM Registration at NMSU-A, Refreshments, Book Sales, Silent Auction, Exhibits
 8:00AM Field Trips/Workshops/Lectures
 9:00AM NPSNM Board Meeting
 11:30AM Lunch
 12:45PM Youth Workshops
 1:00PM Welcome NMSU-A Auditorium
 1:25PM Lecture/Panel Discussion
 6:30PM Cooking Wild Reception at St. Jude Mission Hall

Saturday, August 7th

7:30AM Registration at NMSU-A, Refreshments, Book Sales, Silent Auction, Exhibits
 7:30AM Field Trips, Workshops, Lectures
 11:30AM Lunch
 1:00PM Youth Workshops
 1:10PM Workshop/Lectures/Panel Discussion
 3:00PM Final Silent Auction Bids
 4:00PM Book Sales Close. Pick-up and pay for Silent Auction items.
 6:30PM Banquet at the Elks Lodge

Sunday, August 8th

7:30AM Field Trips

PROGRAM DETAILS

(Held on NMSU-A campus unless otherwise noted.)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

2:00PM – 8:00PM Early registration and Hospitality Room: Holiday Inn Express, 1401 S. White Sands Blvd.

After registering, tour Alamogordo on your own.

6:45PM – 7:45PM **White Sands National Monument Sunset Stroll** is a ranger-guided nature tour. Learn about the area's unique geology as well as the plants and animals that inhabit the world's largest gypsum dune field. Watch the sun set from the top of a dune. The walk is less than one mile with a 50-foot elevation change.

8:30PM – 9:30PM **White Sands National Monument Evening Program** is a video, "White Sands, White Wilderness." Watch while relaxing on a sand dune. (Bring folding chairs or blankets to sit on.) The virtual tour includes aerial photography that shows parts of the park not open to the public.

Park Entrance Fee: \$3.00 per person, 17 and older, for a 7-day pass. Golden Age Passport Holder's car occupants are free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

7:30AM – 5:00PM Registration, NMSU-A

8:00AM – 5:00PM Refreshments, Book Sales, Silent Auction, Exhibits

9:00AM – 12:00 Noon NPSNM Board Meeting

TRIPS

8:00AM – 11:30AM **Osha Trail – Lincoln National Forest** Take a pleasant 2.1-mile circle hike through the Montane Forest at elevations varying between 8,410 and 8,670 feet. Participants must be able to make an initial 150-foot steep climb from the trailhead and walk at high altitudes. A wide variety of trees, shrubs and forbs will be encountered. **Limit 50** (divided into small groups) Leaders: *Helgi Österreich, Trina & Michael Stephenson Joanne and Bill Welsh*, NPS Members

8:00AM – 10:30AM **White Sands National Monument – National Park Service** Take a ranger-guided walk into areas not open to the public. Discover gypsophiles and other plants that survive in this extremely challenging environment of moving dunes and nearly sterile soil. The walk is one mile with moderate climbing. **Limit 30.** Leader: *John Mangimeli*, Chief of Interpretation, White Sands National Monument

8:00AM – 11:00AM **Restoring Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Through Vegetative Manipulation** Tour two well-managed ranches (Mesa Verde and High Nogal) to observe the effects of herbicide treatment to reduce creosote bush and

mesquite populations in order to increase ground cover, reduce soil erosion, and improve ground water recharge. **Limit 25.** Leader: *Dan Abercrombie*, District Conservationist

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

8:30AM – 11:15AM **Basket Making with Native Plant Materials** Native plant materials suitable for basketry will be displayed and discussed. Each participant will make a small basket using some of these materials. Information will be available for the construction of a variety of baskets. **Limit 20.** Presenters: *Lucille Wilson and Kay Jenness*, NPS Members

8:30AM – 9:50AM **Formation of the Sacramento Mountains, Tularosa Basin, and White Sands** Take a fascinating geological trip back in time. Presenter: *Dr. Rip Langford*, Associate Professor of Geology, University of Texas - El Paso (UTEP)

10:00AM – 11:20AM **Ancient Climates of the Borderlands** Learn how climate has shaped the nature of the area's native flora. Presenter: *Dr. Arthur Harris*, Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Laboratory for Environmental Biology, UTEP.

11:30AM – 1:00PM LUNCH

1:00PM – 1:20PM **WELCOME** (Auditorium) *John Stockert*, Otero Chapter President, *Lisa Mandelkern*, NPSNM President, and *Wynn Anderson*, NPSNM Vice-President.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

12:45PM – 4:00PM **Youth Workshops** Activities include: introductions, learning plant parts, games, paper-making, a nature walk, self-guided activities, story time. Children will be taught in two groups: 6 and under, 7 - 12. Coordinator/Teacher: *Helgi Österreich*, NPS Member

1:25PM – 2:45PM **Status of New Mexico Honey Bees, Other Pollinators, and Their Habitats** The honey bee is not native to NM. What kinds of pollinators, especially insects, could Native Americans see before the arrival of European explorers? Are some of these insects competing well with honey bees? Presenter: *Dr. Carol Sutherland*, Extension Entomologist, NMSU, and State Entomologist, NM Department of Agriculture

PANEL DISCUSSION (Public Invited)

3:00PM - 4:30PM **Current Conservation and Environmental Issues** The panel will discuss New Mexico's current conservation and environmental issues and suggest how members of the NPSNM can help resolve these issues. Chairperson: *Dr. Jim Nellessen*, Biologist, Environmental Scientist, and Conservation Chairperson for NPSNM. Panel Members: *Greta Balderrama*, NM Wilderness Alliance;

Michael J. Robinson, Center for Biological Diversity (Native Plant Conservation Campaign); Dr. Nicole Rosmarino, Forest Guardians; Dr. Charlie McDonald, New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council

6:30PM - 8:30PM Cooking Wild Reception
Enjoy a culinary sampling of native edibles and a tasting of local wines. St. Jude Mission Hall, 1404 College Ave.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

7:30AM-10:00AM Registration, NMSU-A

7:30AM- 4:00PM Refreshments, Book Sales, Silent Auction, Exhibits

TRIPS

7:30AM-2:00PM From Cacti to Conifers, Life Zones of the Sacramento Mountains Visit five of the seven life zones of the world. Drive 17 miles, with periodic stops at key points, from the Tularosa Basin through La Luz Canyon to the crest of the Sacramento Mountains. Climb 4,300 feet and pass through plant communities representative of a trip from northern Mexico to the Hudson Bay region. We will observe and discuss the changing environmental influences and plant communities of Southern New Mexico, and do some birding for representatives of the Tropical Life Zone. **Limit: 36** **Leaders:** Linda Barker, Forest Botanist, Lincoln National Forest; John Mangimeli, President, Otero County Birding Club

7:30AM-11:00AM Oliver Lee Memorial State Park Visit an award-winning State Park to see the magnificent wildflowers while walking the Riparian Nature Trail. A guided tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House will provide a little local history. A visit to the Chihuahuan Desert Garden, a project of the NPSNM and Otero Chapter, is a must. **Limit: 30** **Leaders:** Charles Wood, Park Interpretive Ranger; Don Tribble, NPS Member

8:00AM-11:00AM Habitat and Plants of the Endangered Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly Take a trip to the high elevation mountain meadows of the Sacramento Mountains. View the habitat and host plants of the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly. Learn about the nectar host plants of the adult butterflies and the host plants that support eggs and larvae. Adults in August are rare. **Limit: 20** **Leader:** George Garcia, Forest Biologist, Lincoln National Forest

8:30AM-11:00AM Local Native Gardens Tour local native gardens in three life zones: the Proctors' at 4,400 feet (Lower Sonoran Zone), the Bakers' at 6,000 feet (Upper Sonoran Zone), the Smiths' at 7,000 feet (Transition Zone). **Limit: 25** **Leaders:** Neoma and Ken Smith, NPS Members

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

8:45AM-11:15AM Rare and Endangered Plant Species of New Mexico with Emphasis on the Sacramento Mountains New Mexico's highly diverse flora contains many rare and endangered species. The Sacramento Mountains are especially rich in endemic plants. This presentation will identify many of New Mexico's rare and endangered species, show photos of the plants, and discuss what conservation measures are being undertaken to preserve them. **Presenter:** Bob Siviniski, Botanist, New Mexico Forestry Division

9:00AM-11:15AM Make Recycled Paper with Pressed Native Plant Insets Learn how to make recycled paper and decorations using junk mail catalogs and previously pressed flowers. Bring your own favorite pressed flowers or select from available materials. This is a beautiful way to preserve and display the native NM flora. **Limit: 25** **Presenter:** Judy Tribble, NPS Member

11:30AM 1:00PM LUNCH

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

1:00PM-4:00PM Youth Workshops Activities include: drawing, making pressed flower pictures and leaf rubbings, a nature walk, self-guided activities, story time. Children will be taught in two groups: 6 and under, 7-12. **Coordinator/Teacher:** Helgi Österreich, NPS Member

1:10PM-2:30PM Native Plant Propagation Lecture and Demonstration Presenters have a total of thirty-plus years experience growing native plants. Learn how the survival adaptations of native plants make them difficult to propagate and how to overcome their defenses. In addition, learn the secrets of growing native cacti. **Presenters:** Peggy Wells, Desert Spring Nursery, NPS member; Dee Umberson, NPS Cactus Expert

3:00PM Deadline for Silent Auction Bids

PANEL DISCUSSION (Public Invited)

2:40PM-4:00PM The Water Pie – How We Slice and Share the Impossible: A Water Discussion Panel The Panel will present an academic overview of state and local water issues. **Chairperson:** Wynn Anderson, Botanical Curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, The Centennial Museum, UTEP, **Panel Members:** Peggy Johnson, Hydrogeologist, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources; Calvin Chavez, District Engineer's Office; Dr. John Shomaker, Hydrogeologist, Shomaker Associates; Mike McConnell, Forest Hydrologist; Kerry Miyoshi, Instructor of Geology, Ruidoso Branch of ENMU.

4:00PM-5:00PM Book sales close. Pick up and pay for silent auction items.

6:30PM-9:00PM Banquet at the Elk's Lodge.
Keynote Address: "**Plant Diversity and Relationships in the South-Central New Mexico Region.**" Keynote Speaker: *Dr. Richard Spellenberg*, Emeritus Professor of Biology and Associate Herbarium Curator, NMSU

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

FIELD TRIPS

7:30AM-4:00PM White Sands Missile Range – A Unique Botanical Tour The trip provides a rare opportunity to observe some of the approximately 1,100 plants that inhabit the missile range. Cross alkali flats, mesquite dunes, shrublands, and black grama grasslands. Top this off with a visit to Trinity Site and Malpais Spring along the Carrizozo Lava Flow to see the White Sands Pupfish habitat. Visitors may bring cameras and will be told where and when to use them. **Limit: 15 vehicles** (carpooling required) **REGISTER AND SIGN UP FOR THIS TRIP NOT LATER THAN JULY 15TH BY E-MAIL (jwstockert@msn.com) OR PHONE (505-585-2546).** Participants must provide phone numbers and mailing addresses. **In addition, non-citizens must provide type of visa and visa number.** Leader: *David Lee Anderson*, Land Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division, U.S. Dept. of Defense

7:30AM-12:30PM Cathey Canyon Loop Trail - Lincoln National Forest See old growth/large size tree areas, mature aspen stands, evidence of a severe wind storm of a century ago, animal activity, unique fungi, herbs, shrubs, and much more. A 3.4-mile rigorous round-trip hike at elevations over 9,300 feet. Leaders: *Dennis Dwyer*, Forest Service Silviculturalist and *Mickey Mauter*, Forest Service Sales Administrator

8:00AM-10:30AM Three Rivers Petroglyphs and Ancient Village Site – BLM Take a short hike through thousands of petroglyphs and visit a Jornada Mogollon pit house village below the Visitor Center. The village was partially excavated in 1976. Three structures were left exposed and stabilized to illustrate the prehistoric building types. Further excavation as part of an archeology field school was conducted in the summer of 2003, and another field school is planned for the summer of 2004. **Fee: \$2 per vehicle.** Leader: *Helgi Österreich*, NPS Member

7:30AM-1:30PM Otero Mesa - Vegetation Transitions from the Tularosa Basin to Otero Mesa – A 35 Mile Drive/Walk Tour Visit three types of plant communities: Tularosa Basin shrub land, transitional "Bajada" shrub land, Otero Mesa grasslands. We will discuss and contrast the plant communities during the tour. Leaders: *Dr. Raphael Corral*, Botanist and Pest Management Coordinator, Ft. Bliss, TX and *Wynn Anderson*, Botanical Curator, Chihuahuan Desert Garden, UTEP

7:30AM-Noon Aguirre Springs – BLM Aguirre Springs is in the foothills of the rugged Organ Mountains. Hike along the loop trail down to the spring through pine/oak woodland. If the spring is in good shape, we will see aquatics. **Fee: \$3. Golden Age Passport Holders: Half-Fee.** Leader: *Dr. Richard Spellenberg*, Emeritus Professor of Biology, NMSU

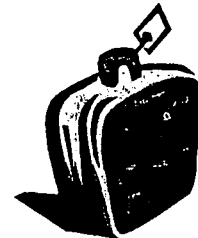
ON YOUR WAY HOME – ON YOUR OWN

Heading North Valley of Fires Malpais Nature Trail – BLM The Carrizozo lava flow developed vents in the valley floor 1,500 – 2,000 years ago. Lava flowed south down the Tularosa Valley burying everything in its path. Flow is 2-5 miles wide and 44 miles long. The nature trail is well marked and an easy walk. US Route 380, 5 miles west of Carrizozo. Self-guided tour. **Fee: \$5.00 per 2 passengers.**

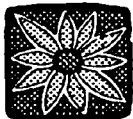
Heading South Oliver Lee Memorial State Park If you didn't make the field trip, the Park is located 10 miles south of Alamogordo. Take US Route 54 South to Dog Canyon Road. (See annotation above for this park.) Self-guided tour. **Fee: \$4 per vehicle.**

Heading West White Sands National Monument If you didn't make the field trip, WSNM is located 20 miles from Alamogordo on US Route 70 West. (See annotation above for this park.) Self-guided tour. **Fee: Seventeen and older \$3 per person for 7-day pass. Golden Age Passport Holder's car occupants free.**

Motel Accommodations



A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Holiday Inn Express** located at 1401 S. White Sands Blvd. (US Hwy 70). Make sure to mention the NPSNM Annual Meeting for the \$50.00 per room rate. A deluxe **complimentary continental breakfast** each morning is included in this rate **for people staying there.** Early Registration and Hospitality Room on Thursday 2:00 – 8:00PM are also located in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express. **Call (505) 437-7100** for reservations prior to July 21 to guarantee the special rate. The Road Runner Campground is located within easy access of the NMSU-A campus. Call them at 877-437-3003 for NPSNM special rates and reservations. A listing of other motels and RV parks can be found on the Chamber of Commerce web site (www.alamogordo.com – click on tourist information).

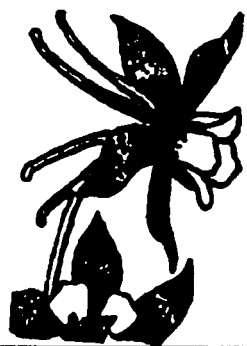


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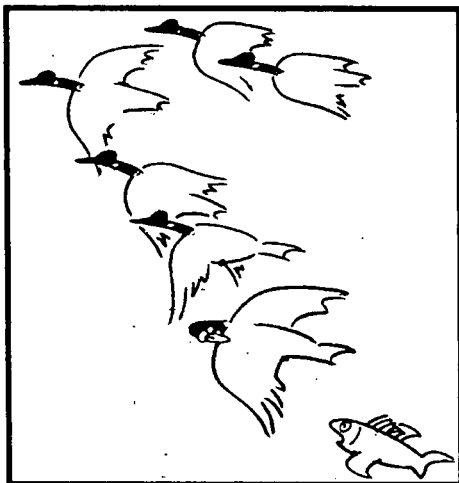
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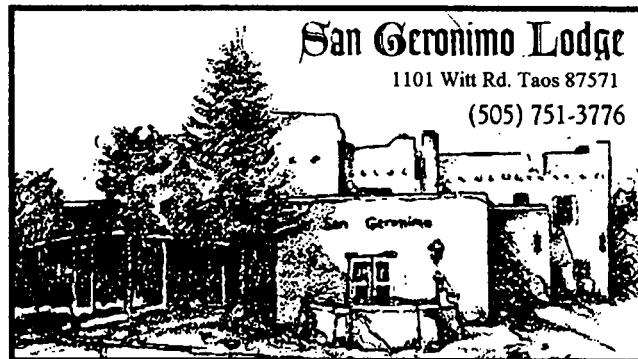
- April 21.** "Monitoring Butterflies Following a Forest Fire." Dr. Steve Cary, Chief Naturalist for NM State Parks.
- May 19.** "Our Changing Earth and the Emergence of Plants." Wayne Bundy, Writer, Retired Mineralogist and Biologist.
- June 6.** Hike. Return to Villanueva State Park in late spring. Led by Steve Cary, Sarah Wood and Chick Keller. Details TBA or call Chick at 662-7915

TAOS

- 2nd Wednesdays at San Geronimo Lodge, 1101 Witt Rd. 7 PM.**
- May 12.** "Living filtration systems like those used by El Monte Sagrado." Eric Lohan with Dharma Properties.



"Hey, guys...I just lost my habitat...Can I join yours?"



San Geronimo Lodge
1101 Witt Rd. Taos 87571
(505) 751-3776

Cont'd from Front Page

Spellenberg's research interests were primarily in the systematics of the Four O'clock Family and the oaks of the Sierra Madre Occidental. For nearly twenty years, he has been active in the Flora of North America Project, contributing most of the Nyctaginaceae material, and serving as editor and reviewer for many other groups.

In addition to academic publications on Southwestern plants, he has written the Audubon Society's Field Guide to *North American Wildflowers: Western Region* and, more recently, *Sonoran Desert Wildflowers*. He has also contributed chapters and sections to other popular and technical books on native plants.

Although retired since 2000, Dr. Spellenberg remains active (whenever he's in town) at the NMSU herbarium as an associate to Dr. Donovan Bailey, the new plant systematist and curator. Spellenberg and the Otero Chapter became friends when the chapter began making annual donations to the NMSU herbarium beginning in 1991. #



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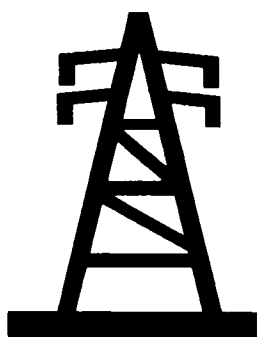
CONSERVATION CORNER

by Jim Nellessen

Otero Mesa An Example of New Mexico's Forgotten Lands

By now many of you may have heard about the controversy regarding the Otero Mesa area in southern Otero County. The area lies east of US 54 and Orogrande, while NM 506 (a dirt road) crosses through the northern portion of the area. It is one of the least roaded areas in the state and contains many areas of native, relatively undisturbed Chihuahuan Desert grassland.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a final environmental impact statement that will open up much more of this area to oil and gas drilling. The NPSNM conservation committee put together an information package for Governor Richardson a couple of months ago, highlighting the plant diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert, the number of rare plant species, and how it is the least conserved of the three great Southwestern American deserts. As some of you may have read in the newspapers, our governor is against the BLM plan and has directed state agencies to make that plan difficult to implement, or to at least hold drilling plans to the tightest possible environmental oversight.



This planned development is actually the result of a greater problem in New Mexico — our own lack of concern for native and natural grasslands and deserts. Most people talk about the beautiful mountains and going hiking through the pine and spruce forests, and we do have many nice high elevation areas protected from development. But this is not the case for our low elevation habitats.

Think of how often you have heard people joking and discussing how they hate driving through places like Kansas and west Texas, the “boring flat terrain.” This is because many people have no appreciation or understanding for what grows and lives there. As a plant enthusiast I enjoy driving through flat areas as much as mountains and forested terrain because there is always vegetation there to be observed. I enjoy observing the various forms of plant life wherever I go.

Preserving Otero Mesa may be a lost cause at this point. Centuries ago, the early settlers did not know what else to do with deserts and dry grasslands other than attempt to cultivate some of them and turn cattle loose on the rest. We all know one cannot raise too many cattle in arid climates. Cattle fare far better in places like Kentucky, Ohio, and Florida where there is lots of green grass. Desert habitats have always been inhospitable and uninviting for humans due to the lack of water. But this is the 21st century, we do not live in the 1800's anymore. There are not many places left where one can go into an area and observe nothing but native vegetation and landscapes in the absence of human contrived structures. In New Mexico we can still find some of these areas.

If you have never been out into the desert or grasslands, miles away from human buildings (as I have on a few occasions), and stopped, looked and listened to nothing but the wind and a few birds, I urge you to do so soon. The opportunity for such experiences will soon be gone from New Mexico and the western United States, just as they are already gone from the eastern US, unless we open the eyes of more people to the wonder and serenity of natural wide-open spaces and its native vegetation.

OUTDOOR CACTUS WORKSHOP

Leader: Dave Ferguson
Location: Albuquerque Vicinity
Date: Early May
Cost \$20

For details contact: Gene Jercinovic
gjercinovic@earthlink.net

Book Reviews

Dry Climate Gardening

Ortho Books 2004

128 pages, ISBN 089721499-4

Paperback \$14.95 U.S. \$23.95 Canada

Reviewed by Sally Wasowski

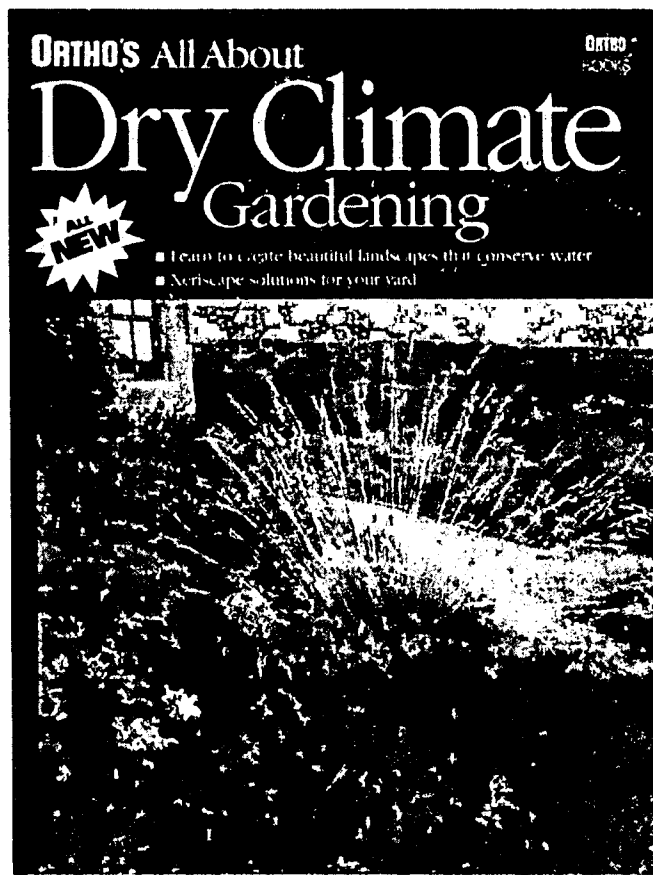
Ortho's new book entitled *Dry Climate Gardening* takes on the difficulties of gardening in the western United States. For the gardener new to the West, this book is exceedingly valuable; the first 83 pages clearly detail native arid environments with a map showing the basic range of each along with drawings on how to assess the impact of water, wind, and soil on the land around your house, how to harvest water and improve soil, and how to choose and group plants according to water use.

There are many good illustrations of how water and roots penetrate different soil profiles and information on how to recognize the physical characteristics of drought-tolerant plants. A number of different irrigation options are shown with a discussion of their pros and cons.

Native plants are strongly advocated, and although many of the how-to photographs are of nonnative plants, invasive plants like tamarisk are clearly labeled as such. I was pleased to see that every single one of the 75 featured plants in the profiles at the back are actually native to the western United States.

My criticisms are few. I wish in the description of sagebrush, Mediterranean herbs had not been mentioned as examples of "soft chaparral shrubs." They certainly are in the Mediterranean, but they are not present in sagebrush. Also, I wish that in the plant profiles there had been a mention of where the plants actually grow in nature, either by state or arid environment.

But these complaints are tiny compared to the overall excellent job Ortho has done in pulling together all the successful methods that have been devised for creating beautiful gardens in our harsh dry western climates. The photographs are gorgeous, many of them by our friends Charles Mann and Andy Wasowski.



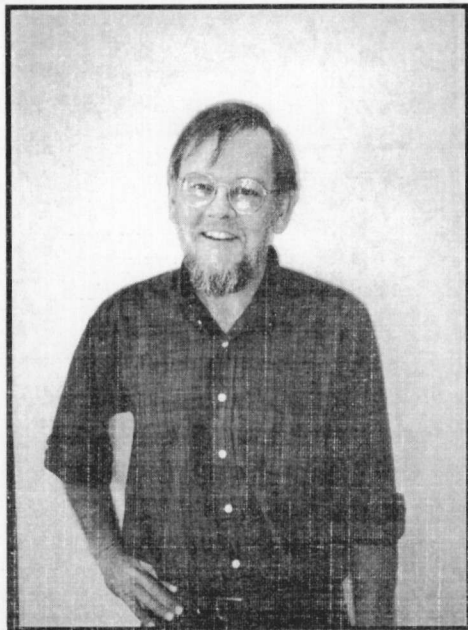
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Volunteer Profile



GENE JERCINOVIC
Alamogordo Chapter

Whenever I'm headed into the Manzano Mountains, I contact Gene and Betty Jercinovic with the hope that they'll show me around. Gene and Betty know every road, trail and canyon, and have tried to find every plant and lichen in the Manzano Range. Gene contributes plant collections to the UNM Herbarium, volunteers his writing skill to the NPSNM Newsletter, and recently became the chairman and creative force of the newly formed NPSNM Workshop Committee.

After building their dream house in Tajiue Canyon, Gene became an avid student of plant taxonomy, botanical history, plant photography and botanical illustration. He applied these skills to his *Wildflowers of the Manzanos*. This self-published book is a work of art containing concise descriptions of 445 plants, each illustrated by Gene's excellent color photos, plus line drawings (most by DeWitt Ivey). It's an excellent field guide for the Sandia and any central NM mountain range. For a copy, email gjercinovic@earthlink.net.

Bob Sivinski

STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

*Please complete a separate form for each attendee. Send form(s) and check to:
Otero NPS (2004) 79 Papago Road, Alamogordo NM 88310*

PLEASE PRINT: Name _____
Mailing Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

I plan to arrive Thursday, Aug 5 () Friday, Aug 6 () Saturday, Aug 7 ()
Meal Preference: Regular _____ Vegetarian _____

For children under 12: Names & Ages _____
Responsible adult _____

Youth Registration: \$25.00 per child. Includes same meals as adult and both Youth Workshops

Choices: (FT=Field Trip/WS=workshop Please Indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd for each day

Friday, Aug 6

- () FT-Osha Trail
- () FT-White Sands Nat'l Monument
- () FT-Mesa Verde & High Nogal Ranches
- () WS-Basket-making
- () Youth Workshops

Saturday, Aug 7

- () FT-Life Zones Sac Mts
- () FT-Oliver Lee Mem State Pk
- () FT-Checkerspot Butterfly
- () FT-Local Native Gardens
- () WS-Recycled Paper
- () Youth Workshops

Sunday, Aug 8

- () FT-White Sands Missile Range
- () FT-Cathey Canyon
- () FT-Three Rivers Petroglyphs
- () FT-Otero Mesa
- () FT-Aguirre Springs

REGISTRATION \$60.00

Early Registration (Before July 1st) \$55.00/Non-Members \$70.00

Registration fee includes Fri/Sat lunches at NMSU-A Deli, Friday reception, Saturday Banquet

Total Submitted \$ _____

Cancellation policy: \$50.00 refund if cancelled by July 15.

For Question, call or email Judy or Don Tribble 505-585-9017 or gecko@netmdc.com

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ORIGINS

As you no doubt already know, almost every U. S. state and Canadian province has a native plant or wildflower society. But when and where did the very first such organization get started? Stanwyn Shetler's article, "Native Plant Societies and Grass-roots Conservation" in *Wildflower* magazine, provides the answer.

He tells us that the beginnings of a popular movement to save North America's native plants can be traced back to 1900 when the Society for the Protection of Native Plants was formed. Later it became the New England Wild Flower Society.

In 1902 the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America was founded at the New York Botanical Garden. In 1925 it moved its center of operations to Washington, DC, changed its name to Wild Flower Preservation, Inc., but then ceased to exist in 1974 — ironically, at about the same time as the native plant movement was getting up steam all across the country.

The first state society was formed in North Carolina in 1951.



Betsy Robertson and Judy Lister proudly display the 2003 Environmental Stewardship Award presented in January 2004 to the Taos Chapter by the Taos Soil and Conservation District. The plaque was given in appreciation and recognition of the Chapter's "professional performance and dedication to natural resource conservation."

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