



# Native Plant Society of New Mexico **NEWSLETTER**

January, February, March 2008 Volume XXXIII Number 1

*Your Input is Important*

## NPSNM Survey

Included in this newsletter is a survey intended to provide your state board of directors and local chapter officers with information about your perceptions of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The society is planning to offer some new and refurbished benefits, such as workshops and a Speakers Bureau, and aiming to improve member retention. Your response to the survey will help make that planning effective.

You have two ways to respond to the survey. First, it is included as Pages 7-10 of this issue of the newsletter in a print format that allows you to mail it. Please remove it from the newsletter, fill it out, put a stamp on it, tape or staple it closed, and mail it. Your response can be anonymous.

A second way to respond is by going to our website, <http://npsnm.unm.edu>. You will find a link to the survey on the homepage. You can then fill it out online and, again, anonymously. Please note that the survey has been available for a while on the website, so if you have already responded to it there, we have received your answers. In that case, there is no need to fill out the print version.

The survey will take a few minutes of your time, but we think your effort will be repaid by improvements in the society's delivery of the benefits you really want. Please go to Page 7 and fill it out now. Your native plant society looks forward to hearing from you.

—By Sandra Lynn  
NPSNM Administrative Assistant



In this snow-covered native plant yard in Carlsbad, overwintering hummingbirds rely on the feeder (center) in the absence of flowers.

Photo by Renée West

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In 2007

# Thank You to Our Member Donors!

NPSNM would like to thank all members who have made monetary contributions above their regular dues in the past year. As of Nov. 27, this list includes those who've sent in extra contributions with their NPSNM memberships. It doesn't include other contributions people make, such as those sent directly to the treasurer, gifts given to local chapters, or the immeasurable contributions of friendship, cooperation, and energy from the many wonderful members of this organization of volunteers.

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Kathy Anderson

*(Continued on page 4)*

**The next NPSNM statewide meeting  
will be September 25-28, 2008, in Las Cruces.  
Save the date!**

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, Renée West at:

*keywestern@hotmail.com* OR:

*1105 Ocotillo Canyon Dr., Carlsbad NM 88220*

**Next Deadline is March 1, 2008**

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 cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative.

**Proofreaders:** Jane Mygatt, Donna Stevens, Sandra Lynn, Steve West, and Hope Woodward.

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*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter:*

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

*I am interested in forming a new chapter in*

\_\_\_\_\_

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Endowment contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# ...Thanking 2007 Member Donors

(Continued from page 2)

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**Send Membership Dues & Changes of Address to:**  
**Membership Secretary,**  
**P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**

## Highway Plant Rescue Results

The final tally of rescued plants from U.S. Highway 62/180 south of Carlsbad was 2,430. The total rescued species was 71, 28 of which were cacti, 5 yuccas and agaves, and 38 others. Of the individuals, 80% (1,955 plants) were cacti, 5% yuccas and agaves (133 plants), and 14% (342 plants) other species.

There were 18 trips to the project area to rescue plants by various NPSNM chapters and volunteers. Five chapters made it to the project site: Gila, Otero, Albuquerque, El Paso, and Las Cruces. The three groups that rescued the greatest number of plants were El Paso, Albuquerque, and Rio Grande Botanic Gardens. These trips included 61 people who spent more than 750 hours rescuing and salvaging plants along the highway corridor.

At least another 500 hours were spent by volunteers managing plants after removal. Four plant sales were held, by Gila, Otero, and Albuquerque, including one by the Cactus and Succulent Society in Albuquerque.

Plants were also distributed to seven public garden facilities: Oliver Lee State Park (on behalf of Otero Chapter), NM Museum of Space History (on behalf of Otero), Rio Grande Botanic Gardens, NM Museum of Natural History and Science (on behalf of Albuquerque), El Paso Water Utility reservoirs (on behalf of El Paso), Western New Mexico University (on behalf of Gila), and Silva Creek Botanical Gardens (on behalf of Gila).

Chapters and volunteers have been reporting plant survival ranging from 78% to 98%, with an average of 88.5%.

Highway construction is now under way. I have a few plants saved for the possibility of being returned as landscaping around a potential rest area, but that is not certain at this point.

We thank NMDOT personnel in both the District 2 Office (Roswell) and the main office in Santa Fe, as well as BLM staff, for their cooperation in making this project even possible in the first place. We also extend much thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for financial support of this project.

I want to give my own special thanks to Sandra Lynn for being the initial "seed for thought" that started the ball rolling.

By Jim Nellessen

## ***Long-Time Member and Friend***

# El Paso Chapter Loses Charles Berry

Charles Robert “Chuck” Berry was a conservationist and a lover of native plants and the environment. His passion was demonstrated by his very active participation in the El Paso Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. He was also a certified Texas Master Naturalist, active in the Trans Pecos Chapter, and a certified Texas Master Gardener, El Paso Chapter. His passing leaves a deep hole in the fabric of El Paso nature lovers.

Charles was born December 10, 1928, in Edina, MO, and passed away November 2, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Connie Berry, of Las Cruces, NM, and his daughters Daphne Berry of Las Cruces and Michelle Robbins and her husband David of Rio Rancho, NM. Three brothers and a sister also survive him.

Charles enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1947 and retired in 1971 at the rank of major. He was a decorated soldier, having been honored with many awards, including two Bronze Stars while serving in Viet Nam.

Charles graduated with honors at New Mexico State University, earning two Bachelor of Arts

degrees and two Master of Arts degrees: sociology in 1975 and counseling and educational psychology in 1976. He worked for the Social Security Administration from 1976 to 1999 and retired in El Paso.

It was a little-known fact that Charles was an accomplished wood carver, creating many beautiful pieces of art. He demonstrated his passion for the environment by participation in projects to remove trash from our Franklin Mountains, staffing Master Gardener booths to answer horticultural questions from the public, and writing horticultural articles for various publications. He demonstrated his life-long love of learning by attending most of the educational presentations by all of the organizations in which he was active.

One of Charles’s passions was the preservation of the El Paso Museum of Archeology and the nature trails he helped create. In honor of his memory, the El Paso Chapter of NPSNM has made a donation to the Museum Preservation Fund in his name.

His host of friends and colleagues will sorely miss Charles.

Submitted by Virginia Morris



Charles Berry (left) received his Master Gardener recertification from John White, Horticulture Extension Agent for Dona Ana County, NM, in December 2006.

# Survey

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico Winter 2008

Please circle your response or insert numbers for rankings or make comments in the space provided. Please remove Pages 7-10, fill them out, put on a stamp, tape or staple closed, and mail.

1. Are you a member of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico?

- Yes
- No

If no, please go to question 6.

2. If yes, how long have you been a member?

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- more than 10 years

3. What did you hope to gain from membership when you joined?

4. Please rank these benefits of membership from 1 (highest) to 8 in order of their value to you.

- \_\_ Friendships with people of like interests
- \_\_ Field trips
- \_\_ Opportunities to learn about wild native plants
- \_\_ Opportunities to learn about gardening with native plants
- \_\_ Meetings, local and state, that include speakers and presentations
- \_\_ Community service opportunities
- \_\_ Participation in conservation efforts
- \_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you have considered not renewing your membership, what is/was the reason for your dissatisfaction with the Native Plant Society?

6. Do you use the Native Plant Society website, <http://npsnm.unm.edu>?

- Yes
- No

If no, please go to question 8.

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

7. If yes, what do you use the website for? (Circle all that apply.)

- Information about native plants
- News of the statewide society
- News of an individual chapter
- Tips on plant photography
- Information about activities
- Book list
- Information about other merchandise
- Access to society business, such as minutes of board meetings
- Reading the newsletter
- Information about grant applications
- Contact information
- Advertisements
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you receive by email the postings of the Native Plant Society discussion group listserv — (<http://npsnm.unm.edu/discussion.html>)?

- Yes
- No

If no, please go to question 10.

9. If yes, do you find the listserv helpful and/or interesting?

- Yes, definitely
- Somewhat
- No

10. Do you read the newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico?

- Yes
- No

If no, please go to question 12.

11. If yes, what parts of the newsletter are particularly helpful/interesting to you? (Circle all that apply.)

- messages from the NPSNM president and others
- photos
- news of recent chapter activities
- schedules of upcoming chapter events
- various announcements
- book reviews
- articles
- schedule for annual meeting
- advertisements
- contact information

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

12. How would you identify yourself as a native plant enthusiast? (Circle all that apply.)

- Amateur botanist
- Professional botanist/ecologist/forester/range scientist/ethnobotanist
- Gardener
- Photographer/artist/writer
- Hiker
- Naturalist
- Science teacher
- Science student
- Environmentalist

13. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico has in the past offered workshops on various botanical topics (example: workshop on the Asteraceae family) lasting for at least two days. The workshops were led by experts on the topic and included both classroom/laboratory sessions and field trips.

If such workshops were offered again, what topics would you be interested in?

(Consider types of native plants and plant habitats, conservation issues, botanical education, skills valuable to the plant enthusiast, skills valuable to a chapter volunteer, gardening and landscaping with natives, other possibilities)

14. Would you be willing to sign up for a two-day (or perhaps longer) workshop?

- Yes
- No

15. Would you be willing to sign up for a one-day workshop (no overnight)?

- Yes
- No

16. If you attend programs, field trips, or other activities of the Native Plant Society, how do you find out about them?

- Newsletter
- Website
- Email message
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Verbal announcements at meeting

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

17. What kinds of topics do you want to hear about from speakers/presenters? (Circle all that apply.)

- Native plant identification and taxonomy
- Climate change and its effects on native plant communities
- Botanical education in general
- Growing natives/creating backyard habitats
- Habitat conservation or restoration
- Native plant photography or illustration (botanical drawing)
- Eradicating invasive non-natives
- Traditional uses of wild plants for food and medicine
- Ecology of different habitats and communities (examples: aquatic plants, wetlands, alpine species)
- Plant travelogues
- Botanical history
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you know a speaker/presenter to recommend for a proposed Speakers Bureau? Please provide a name and home community or organization.

---

Sandra D. Lynn  
NPSNM Administrative Assistant  
1814 Hermosa Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110-4924

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There's still time for 2007 taxes:

### **Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund**

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Steve Robertson, NPSNM Treasurer  
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## Colorado NPS requests research proposals

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) is soliciting research proposals for the February 15, 2008, deadline.

The Colorado NPS supports research projects in plant biology from the John W. Marr and Myrna P. Steinkamp funds. These separate funds honor the late Dr. John Marr, professor at the University of Colorado and the first president of the CoNPS, and Dr. Myrna Steinkamp, a founding member of CoNPS who worked on behalf of the society for many years in a variety of capacities.

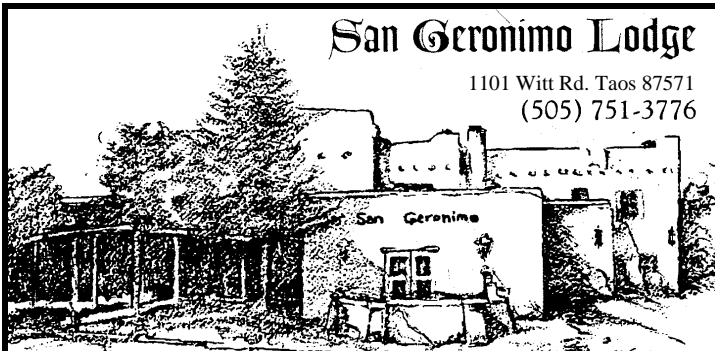
Both funds were established to support research on the biology and natural history of Colorado native plants by means of small grants. The Steinkamp Fund targets rare species and those of conservation concern. Both field and laboratory studies are eligible for funding. Thanks to the generous contributions of many members and supporters, a total of nearly \$3,000 is available, although individual awards will not exceed \$1,000.

Recipients of the awards must agree to summarize their studies for publication in *Aquilegia* and on the CoNPS website. Awardees are highly encouraged to present the results of their research in poster or presentation format at the CoNPS annual meeting and/or a chapter meeting.

Information on guidelines and requirements for proposals may be obtained by contacting board member Jan Loechell Turner at [jltturner@regis.edu](mailto:jltturner@regis.edu) or (303) 458-4262. Or check the web site at: [http://www.conps.org/research\\_grants.html](http://www.conps.org/research_grants.html).

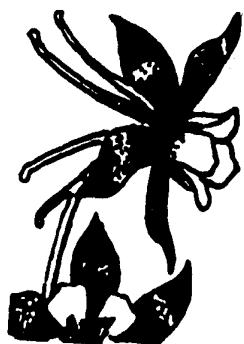
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## Review

# *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays*

## *A Natural History of the Backyard Restoration Garden*

Book by Judith Larner Lowry  
University of California Press, 2007

For almost three decades, writer/gardener Judith Larner Lowry has run Larner Seeds in Marin County, California. Her excellent 1999 book, *Gardening with a Wild Heart*, assembled a rich sampling of subjects such as ecology, seed collection, and landscape design featuring native plants. Not limited to California, her wide-ranging interests and appealing narrative were relevant and engaging to audiences anywhere, whether gardeners, historians, travelers, or birders. This new essay collection picks up where Lowry left off, further exploring themes of restoring a place to resemble its natural state before Europeans arrived, importing their Old World plants, animals, and agricultural methods.

Instead of forcing local environments to submit to blanket traditional ideals, she explains, we can learn to appreciate, cultivate, and emulate what naturally co-evolved during millennia. “From organic gardening,” for instance, her method “takes the goal of no chemical use.” From xeriscaping, minimal watering. From permaculture, sheet mulching and resource conservation. From indigenous peoples, respect for the qualities of plants and “specific management techniques for continued renewal of health and vigor.” And from restoration ecology, “the desire to foster local flora and fauna.”

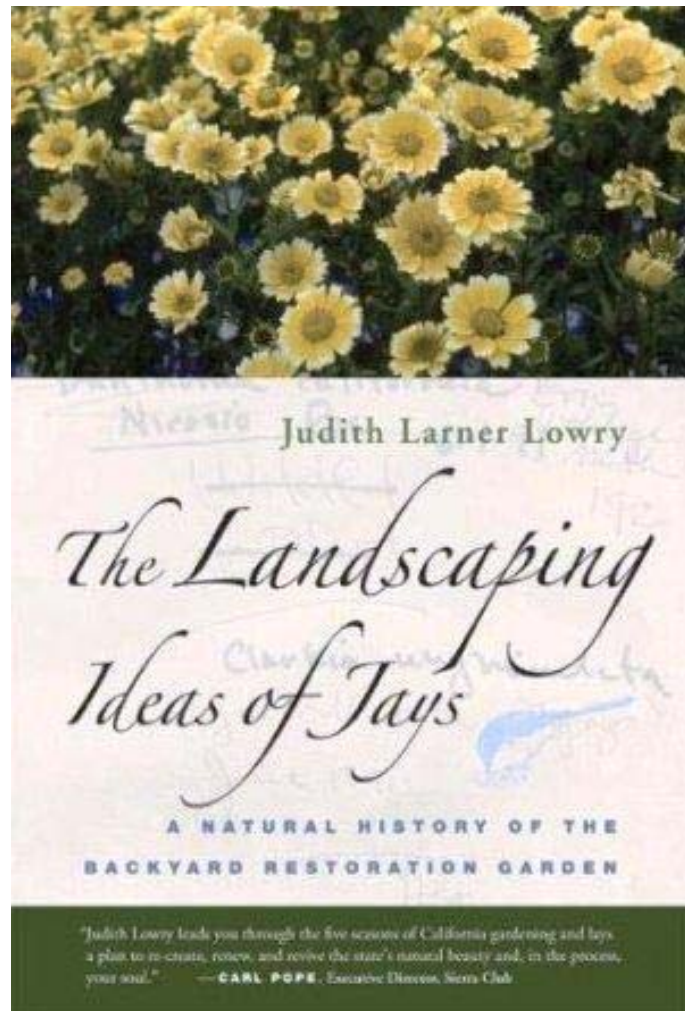
For Lowry, fauna are active partners in the “ongoing party” of gardening. Deer and quail, ants and bees, and many more creatures both large and small, affect a balanced ecosystem, of which we humans might benefit by considering ourselves contributors rather than masters. She tells a delightful story of a western scrub-jay who stole an acorn from a picnic years ago. “I believe,” she writes, “the tree that grew from it now shades the nursery.” Clearly, the idea of animal collaborators flourishes in both her thinking and writing.

Lowry organizes her book by seasons, beginning with autumn and ending with a “fifth season,” that

rainless, dormant time after spring planting and summer harvest, but before fall’s many welcome chores that anticipate future growing seasons. She also provides design ideas: hers, others’, animals’, and even some from three women pioneers of native plant horticulture.

Once again, she demonstrates how small things matter. A dirt path rather than cement or stone might harvest rain, allowing a stray seed — perhaps one “planted” by a bird — exactly the setting it needs to germinate and grow.

—Reviewed by Irene Wanner



# Chapter Activities & Events

## Albuquerque

**PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME AND PLACE:**

**Most meetings are first Wednesdays at 7 pm at the Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, in the multi-purpose room to the left as you come in the main entrance. For info, contact Pam McBride, ebotpam@msn.com, 343-9472; or Jim McGrath, sedges@swcp.com, 286-8745.**

January 2 talk—Carolyn Dodson will talk about the new book *Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies, Revealing their Natural History* that she co-authored with Bill Dunmire. She has been co-teaching a class on wildflower ID for UNM's Continuing Education for years and is an accomplished writer and photographer. Bill has co-authored two books with Gail Tierney on wild plant use by indigenous peoples of NM and is sole author of *Gardens of New Spain*. Books will be for sale at our usual discount for NPSNM members.

February 6 talk—“Flora of the Four Corners Region” by Ken Heil. Ken is a retired professor of biology and geology at San Juan College and currently curator of the herbarium at the college. He has been involved in the development of a flora of the region for the past 10 or 11 years, to be published sometime this year. Now is your chance to enjoy Ken's encyclopedic knowledge of Four Corners flora and see his fabulous photos of selected plants from each state.

February 22-24—Xeriscape Conference. NPSNM Table, Expo NM, Lujan Building. Every year we set up a table with displays about our chapter and sell native plant books, posters, and bookmarks. Set up is on 2/22. Hours are 8:30-4:30 on 2/23 and 9-3 on 2/24, when we need people to staff the table. To volunteer, contact Tom Stewart, tomstewart@att.net, 881-6296; or Pam McBride (see above).

March 1 (?) service field trip--Pole planting day at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen. The 97-acre tract owned by Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District was once the Curran Dairy. The district is restoring riparian conditions. Car-pool location and exact date TBA.

March 5 talk—“George Engelmann and the Great Age of Cactus Discovery” by Paula Rebert. 19th-

century botanist Engelmann was greatly interested in the exploration of the American West and is best known for naming many of our cactus species. Paula is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Ph.D. in the history of cartography. She combined her special interests in cacti and the history and geography of the Southwest to research the work of Engelmann. She has published on the exploration and mapping of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands in articles and books, including *La Gran Línea: Mapping the United States-Mexico Boundary, 1849-1857*.

## El Paso

**All programs are second Thursdays at 7 pm at Centennial Museum, UTEP campus. All society events are free unless otherwise noted. Non-members are always welcome.**

January 10 walk—Franklin Mountains State Park with park ranger Danny Contreras. He will discuss a bill that seeks to curb the illegal harvesting of desert plants. He will also discuss other recent developments and issues within the park. For info, call Henry Drake, 915-855-6543.

February 14 talk—“Biological Inventory of Otero Mesa” by Steve West, science advisor and SE coordinator for NM Wilderness Alliance. Results of an ongoing inventory and an update on the effort to save this rare remaining grassland from gas drilling.

## Gila (Silver City)

**All programs and hikes are free and open to the public. Meetings are second Fridays at 7 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall. Hikers meet at 8 am in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre to arrange carpooling. For more info, call Deming Gustafson, 575-388-5192. For hikes, bring water, food, hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes.**

January 18 talk—“Charles Wright and the Native Plant Society of New Mexico” by Rich Spellenberg. Rich is a long-time member of NPSNM, has curated the NMSU herbarium, and has authored numerous publications about western flora. He will share some wonderful (and colorful) stories about Wright, one of the first plant collectors to come through the Southwest.

February 15 talk—“Plants, Animals, and People,

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## Chapter Activities & Events

from the Red River to Cibola” by Richard Felger. Felger, a researcher and author of many books and articles on the Sonoran Desert, will trace the history of the area from 1539 and discuss its future in light of overdevelopment. Copies of some of his books will be available for purchase.

March 14 talk—“Troublesome Weeds of Southwest NM” by Pete Walden. An extension agent for Grant County, Pete is an expert on noxious weeds and xeriscaping, and recipient of the 2006 Outstanding NM Conservationist award. He will discuss how certain “imported” plant species are threatening local flora, how to identify them, and measures for controlling them.

### Las Cruces

**Meetings and programs are Wednesdays at 7 pm in the conference room of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. (Social Center is on the right while traveling east on Buena Vida.) Field trips are Saturdays. Where and when vary; check each listing. Most field trips extend into the afternoon. Bring lunch, water, sun protection, plant field guides, and wear good walking shoes. Participants must sign a release of liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free, and non-members are always welcome. Contacts: president Ray Bowers 575-541-1877; vice-president Carolyn Gressitt 575-523-8413; state rep. Al Krueger 575-532-1036.**

January 9 meeting—Sharing images from the September 2007 photography workshop.

February 13 talk—“Attracting hummingbirds and butterflies” by Jackie Meineke.

February 16 walk—Aden Crater field trip. Meet at 8 am at east end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner of University and Telshor, to carpool.

March 12 talk—“Spontaneous Hybridization in Plants” by Donovan Bailey.

March 15 walk—East Potrillo Mountains field trip. Meet at 8 am at east end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner of University and Telshor, to carpool.

April 9 talk—“History of Chile in New Mexico”

by Danise Coon.

April 12 walk—Jarilla Mountains field trip. Meet at 8 am at east end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner of University and Telshor, to carpool.

September 25-28—Annual Statewide Meeting. Board meeting Thursday; regular meeting Friday through Sunday. Details in next issue!

### Otero (Alamogordo)

**For field trip information, e-mail or call Eric Metzler, metzlere@msu.edu, 575-443-6250; or William Herndon, William@netmdc.com, 575-437-2555. Information should be available by the beginning of each month.**

January and February—Events TBA. Check website for updated information.

March 8 walk (tentative)—White Sands National Monument with David Bustos.

April 19—Plant Sale. At the Garden Center in Alamogordo, 8 am to 1 pm.

April 26—Earth Day. Activities from 9 am to 4 pm at the Alamogordo Zoo.

### San Juan (Farmington)

**Meetings are third Thursdays at 7 pm at San Juan Community College. For more information call, Les Lundquist at 505-326-7194.**

### Santa Fe

**Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 pm at College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Dr., Luke Hall, Room 303. For more info, contact Tom Antonio, tantonio@csf.edu, 505-473-6465; or Carol Johnson, gcjohnson@comcast.net, 505-466-1303.**

January 16 talk—Carolyn Dodson, faculty of the University of New Mexico General Library, retired, will discuss her new book, co-written with William Dunmire, *Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies, Revealing their Natural History*.

February 20 talk—“A Beginner’s Guide to Lichens” by Dr. David W. Johnson, professor and chair, Sciences & Conservation Studies, College of Santa Fe.

March 19 talk—“The Importance of Being Vouchered” by Robert Sivinski, botanist for the New Mexico Forestry Division. A presentation about herbarium specimens and how they are used,

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