



Native Plant Society of New Mexico **NEWSLETTER**

April, May, June 2008 Volume XXXIII Number 2

September statewide meeting in Las Cruces:

Join us "At The Crossroads"

"At The Crossroads" will be the theme for the 2008 statewide annual meeting. The September gathering will highlight the Chihuahuan Desert region with an enticing variety of field trips and presentations.

This year's meeting will be a little later in the year than usual: Thursday, September 25, through Sunday, September 28, at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The board of directors will meet Thursday afternoon (anyone can attend) and the main event runs Friday morning through Sunday. Presentations will discuss research, ecology, diversity, and history of the northern Chihuahuan Desert area.

Field trips on Saturday morning and Sunday will include a workshop as well as visits to area parks, natural areas, and a local nursery. Book sales and the silent auction will be available throughout Friday and Saturday.

The keynote address by Eric Metzler will highlight Saturday night's banquet. Metzler, a lepidopterist who lives in Alamogordo, has titled his talk "eHarmony.com." Hmm...

You may well ask: What does eHarmony.com have to do with native plants? What does eHarmony.com have to do with the the Crossroads theme of this year's annual meeting? What does eHarmony.com have to do with plants? What do plants secretly do while on the internet late at night? What does this year's speaker, a happily married man for 40 years, know about eHarmony.com? Does the speaker's wife know that her



husband knows anything about eHarmony.com?

However, Metzler will offer no answers until the night of the banquet! "The complete story will be shown only once, September 26-28, 2008," he says. "Be sure not to miss another riveting episode of the annual meeting of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico."

The complete agenda and registration form are inside this issue. A map will appear in the next issue, as well as on the NPSNM website.

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From the President

Chick Keller

January is the time for NPSNM to plan for another year and to decide what proposals to fund for the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund grants. This was done formally at the winter Board meeting in late January at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. While the work is done mostly by board members and committee chairs, everyone is welcome to attend and to make suggestions.

Highlights of this last meeting included:

*Chapter reports show clearly that NPSNM is alive and well and reaching plant lovers across the state. The main activities are presenting talks and leading native plant hikes. Other activities are more varied and cover things from plant growing and sales to awarding small grants to worthy efforts.

*The Board voted to give special recognition to Conservation Chair Jim Nellessen for his outstanding efforts in the plant rescue project (U.S. 62/180 near Carlsbad). With his dedicated work we not only saved plants, we made a good impression on the State Highway Department, showing that NPSNM is able to work with it for the improvement of our State's floral resources.

*Perhaps the main item is the budget. Several things have changed in the past year. NPSNM has an endowment of about \$100,000 which in the past has been invested in Certificates of Deposit. This year a fraction of these funds is being invested in special stock funds. As luck would have it, this has not been a particularly auspicious year to do such investing, but over the long haul it is believed we will earn more than the CDs' falling interest. Perhaps the most salient feature of the budget is that we are into deficit spending largely due to our hiring a part-time assistant and program coordinator. Sandra Lynn is doing a splendid job, establishing a speaker's bureau and setting up multiday workshops, as well as attending to a myriad of other items. In order to get us back to balanced budget, we need to write some grants and we need to ask all of you to consider increasing your donations to the Society. Also any ideas you

may have for fund raising or other income would be greatly appreciated.

*Finally, the Board gave out some \$6,850 in Carter grants in addition to the annual \$500 grants to each of the five major herbaria in the state. The proposals supported broke roughly into three categories: plant collecting and identification, education, and conservation. Several projects will fund students. We plan to say more about these in future newsletters.

In addition to Society funding of this program, we have established an endowment fund which we hope will grow to a level so that its earnings can be used to enhance current support. Donations to this endowment are being sought from both private individuals and businesses. I urge you to consider participating in this effort.

In conclusion, I am amazed that time has flown so fast that many of the things I wanted to get started have not yet been done. Regardless, I'd like to add another. With participation of NPSNM members, we have been able to put out a vouchered plant list for Los Alamos County of some 800 species. This list will, of course, continue to grow, but already it is of benefit to a variety of people and agencies interested in state flora. I would like to challenge each chapter to consider adopting a county or region and developing a similar vouchered plant list for it (both from existing herbaria collections and new acquisitions). While there are many more counties in our state than chapters, such lists would be representative of a wider area and would represent a considerable contribution to existing efforts to understand the demographics of our native plants.

If any chapters are so inclined, I would be happy to discuss how this might be done. If nothing else, it would be great fun for members to see how many species they could find on their outings. Looking forward to another growing season and to opportunities to educate our citizens about the value and beauty of our native plants.

At The Crossroads
the NPSNM statewide meeting
September 25-28, 2008, in Las Cruces

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 June 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.

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- Albuquerque
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 Gila (Silver City)
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 Otero
 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
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Limited Income, Students & Seniors (65+).....	\$12

Endowment contribution \$ _____

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Make your check payable to

NPSNM

and send to

Membership Secretary

P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004

El Paso Chapter

Wynn Anderson Awarded Lifetime Member Status

Wynn Anderson is an icon in the native plant community in El Paso and the greater Southwest. Anyone with a question on plant diseases, plant identification, or selection of native plants to create a beautiful landscape consults Wynn. He is an educator and an advocate for native plants.

In recognition of his iconic status, the El Paso Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico awarded Wynn lifetime membership status in October, 2007.

“Wynn Anderson is passionate about living in harmony with and conserving our natural environment,” said Florence Schwein, former director of the Centennial Museum at the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP). “Wynn Anderson shares his passion by being an advocate and mentor. He is creating a learning legacy!”

Wynn left his native Harlingen, Texas, in the 1960s to study jewelry making and art at UTEP. He earned a degree in geological sciences, and remained as an employee for more than 35 years. He began as a work-study student and moved up to assistant director for development in charge of alumni affairs. He served for 20 years as assistant to three university presidents before becoming assistant vice president for finance and administration in 1992.

During the 1970s and 80s, Wynn was also an avid conservationist and backcountry hiker, and a life member of the Sierra Club. His interests turned to the study of the plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. He went from photographing and drawing plants to turning his yard into a botanical Eden of native plants. His intimate understanding of our plant world convinced him that people in our region simply must embrace water conservation and develop landscapes that respect the environment.

Wynn guided a 10-year fundraising effort and was the architect for design and construction of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at the Centennial

Museum, which opened in September, 1999. He retired in 1999 to devote more time to the gardens. He now serves as the Museum’s botanical curator.

Always the teacher, Wynn is a co-host of SunSCAPE, a weekly radio show on KTEP Public Radio, and an integral part of the SunSCAPE classes taught at the Museum. He gives lectures, leads tours, writes articles, and can often be found working happily in the Museum gardens.

Wynn has been active in the El Paso Chapter since its inception in 1983, serving as president in 2002. He has been active on the board for decades. In 2005-06 he was state president of the society.

“Our Chihuahuan Desert can be a hard, harsh land but is a beautiful one to those who take the time to explore and to look about with open, receptive eyes,” says Wynn. “Looking under desert shrubs, examining arroyo banks and canyon walls, searching the base of boulders and tracing crevices in the rock always reveal wonderful secrets. Beauty we cannot imagine as we mindlessly scrape away the natural landscape for development’s sake. Delicate beauty we destroy with our off-roading vehicle, use for “target practice,” or obscure with trash dumping and litter. Most see the desert only when whizzing past at



Wynn Anderson

75 miles per hour on the highway, and then only as something to be avoided or altered by water spouting sprinkler systems into lush green artificial landscapes.

“Slow down, learn where, when, and how to look, then enjoy the abundant, beautiful secrets of our desert.

“We protect and conserve only what we value. We value only what we respect and appreciate. We respect and appreciate only what we are taught. Never stop learning about the natural world. Never stop teaching.”

Submitted by Virginia Morris, Scott Cutler, and Marshall Carter-Tripp

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

Win a Free Book* From the NPSNM Bookstore!

Here's your chance to show your creativity. The Native Plant Society of NM needs a slogan or unique "branding" phrase. It should be brief (see examples below), memorable, and appropriate to our mission (also printed below). It will be used along with our logo in our newsletter, on our website, and elsewhere, to help people remember us and what we stand for.

You are probably most familiar with such slogans associated with businesses, but environmental nonprofits also use such phrases effectively. Here are some examples:

Sierra Club

"Explore, enjoy and protect the planet"

Natural Resources Defense Council

"The Earth's Best Defense"

Center for Biological Diversity

"Because Life is Good"

The mission of the NPSNM is to promote the conservation of our native flora and plant habitats and to encourage the appropriate use of native plants in New Mexico. We support research and educational activities in New Mexico schools and universities.

If you have one or a few good ideas for phrases to get that mission across in just a few well-chosen words, submit it/them to the Recording Secretary, Carolyn Gressitt, at 734 N. Reymond, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or at canton49@hotmail.com.

Just write your slogan(s) (limit: 3 per person) and mail or email them along with your name, address, and phone number. You must be a member to enter.

All the submissions will be presented to the Board of Directors (without the names of the proposers) for a vote. The person whose slogan is selected will be allowed to choose a book from our long and enticing booklist and receive it for free. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2008.

(*up to a value of \$50)

NPSNM webpage:

<http://npsnm.unm.edu>

NPSNM Has A Website?!

The recent NPSNM Survey asked, “Do you use the Native Plant Society website, <http://npsnm.unm.edu?>” Many responders said they did not know there was a NPSNM website.

The website was designed by Jane Mygatt of the UNM Herbarium and includes many gorgeous photos of New Mexico native plants by Bob Sivinski and others. Website maintenance is done by Lolly Jones, who welcomes comments and suggestions for improvements.

The website is divided into 16 groups of information, listed below:

- *Activities* – Descriptions and photos of current events.
- *Business* – Meeting minutes, Treasurer’s Report and By-laws.
- *What’s New* – Notices of new books, grant opportunities, general information.
- *What is a Native Plant* – Short description of New Mexico flora and regions. Link to “Index of New Mexico Plant Names to the list of Alien Plants Known in New Mexico.”
- *Local Chapters* – Each of the eight chapters has its own web page, which lists their officers and monthly activities.
- *Membership* – Description of membership benefits and a membership form to apply.
- *Grants* – Description of the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund grants and application instructions.
- *Conservation* - Information on issues pertaining to the conservation of native plants and habitats on public and private lands in New Mexico.
- *State Meetings* – Description of state meeting location, events and registration instructions.
- *Contact Us* – Contact information for officers, chapter representatives, committee

chairs and administrative coordinator.

- *Books and Newsletters* – Purchase information and complete NPSNM book list. Links to the last several newsletters.
 - *T-shirts* – NPSNM T-shirt description and purchase information.
 - *Posters* - NPSNM poster description and purchase information.
 - *Photos* - Groupings of native plants incorporating the impressions/perspectives from members of the Native Plant Society.
 - *Links* – Pertinent links to other native plant organization, herbaria, conservation, wildflowers, landscaping, and garden design. Links to NPSNM advertisers.
 - *Discussion Group* – Instructions on joining NMPLANTS-L, a discussion group for the purpose of fostering the exchange of information on the native plants of New Mexico and the Southwest.
- These links appear on the left side of the home page. Be sure to take advantage of it!

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Native Plant Society of New Mexico

of New Mexico
Native Plant Society

HOME

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- Posters
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- Discussion Group

Welcome to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico!

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is to educate New Mexicans on native plant identification, ecology, and uses; encourage preservation of natural habitats; support botanical research; and promote use of native plants for conservation of water, land, and wildlife.

The society comprises hundreds of members; eight regional chapters, each with its own unique programs, activities, officers and committees; state executive officers and board of directors; and various statewide committees. NPSNM publishes a quarterly newsletter for its membership and other interested readers. Information about all these chapters, activities, programs, and officers can be found on this website, along with recent issues of the newsletter. The NPSNM also sponsors an active grants program, the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund, which provides thousands of dollars in grant funds for education and research about the rich and diverse botanical heritage of the state.

Please explore our website and learn more about New Mexico's native plants and the organization that celebrates and conserves them. Become a member!



Primula rusbyi var. *ellisiae* Photo: R. Sivinski

Last updated: 14 February 2008; Design: J. Mygatt; Photographs in header ©2004 Robert Sivinski
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**Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2008 Annual Meeting**

At The Crossroads



Thursday, September 25 to Sunday, September 28

**Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum
Las Cruces, New Mexico**

Conference Location: The meeting will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum on Dripping Springs Rd. Take exit 1 on I-25, go east on University Ave, which turns into Dripping Springs Rd. A map will be available in the next newsletter, or on the website: <http://npsnm.unm.edu>

Accommodations: We have arranged for special conference rates at the following hotels. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Native Plant Society. Hotel reservations should be made prior to July 31 to ensure conference rates. **Comfort Inn**, \$69.95 per night, located at the University exit for I-10 (Exit 142), 575-527-2000 or 1-800-424-6423. **Sleep Inn**, \$70.00 per night, located on Triviz Drive at the University exit of I-25 (exit 1), 575-522-1700. **Siesta RV**, \$30.00 per night (full hook-up) or \$28.00 per night only water and electricity, located at the Avenida de Mesilla exit (Exit 140) of I-10, 1-800-414-6816. Make RV reservations early because the Canadian Snow Birds start migrating through in September. For more information about accommodations and dining, contact the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.lascrucescvb.org.

2008 Annual Meeting Program
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Farm and Ranch Museum, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Thursday, September 25

2:00 - 5:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting

3:00 - 6:00 pm Registration

Friday, September 26

7:30 am - 4:30 pm Registration

7:30 am - 4:30 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction

8:45 am - 9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 am - 9:50 am Debra Peters, Lead Scientist of the Jornada Basin Long Term Ecological Research Program: "The Past as a Lens to the Future: Crossroads in Time and Space"

10:00 am - 10:50 am Vince Gutschick, Biology Professor: "Creosote"

11:10 am - 12:00 pm Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Director of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park: "K-12 Science Education and Projects at Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park"

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm Rex Pieper, Retired Range Scientist: "Piñon-Juniper Ecology"

2:40 pm - 3:30 pm David Richman, Biology Associate Professor: "Biodiversity along the Border: Chihuahuan Desert Region Biotic Hot Spots"

3:40 pm - 4:30 pm Patrick Alexander, Biology Graduate Teaching Assistant: "The saga of *Arabis fendleri*: One name, but how many species are there?"

6:30 pm Reception at Enchanted Gardens

Saturday, September 27

7:30 am - 4:30 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction

7:30 am - 12 or 1:00 pm **Field Trips and Workshops**
(Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis)
Be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, hiking shoes, water, and if the trip has extended periods outside, a light weight, long sleeved shirt will help protect your arms.

Saturday, continued:

1. **Carolyn Gessitt and John Freyermuth: Hike in Peña Blanca area.** The Peña Blanca area is at the southern end of the Organ Mountains. The hike is short and easy, only about a mile round-trip, mostly level, with one large and a few smaller arroyos to cross. We will provide a fall plant list for the trip, along with a spring list for those interested. The number of participants is not limited, but carpooling is encouraged.

2. **Alex Mares: Hike at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.** The Mesilla Valley Bosque is New Mexico's newest state park. It is situated between the Río Grande and a large desert mesa, so it encompasses 7 different plant communities, from marshlands to desert areas. This walk over established paths is easy. Limit: 25.

3. **JLTER Staff: Visit the Jornada Experimental Range.** Normally the Jornada Experimental Range is off-limits because of the experimental work done there. However, Native Plant Society participants are invited on a tour of some of the important Long Term Ecological Research stops close to the main road. Most of the visit will be just off the well-graded main road, easily accessible by car. The number of participants is not limited, but carpooling is encouraged.

4. **Dave Anderson: Biological Communities on White Sands Missile Range.** San Agustin Peak, Black Prince Canyon, Lena Cox ranch, and Pat Garrett homestead site. Leave Farm and Ranch at 7:30. Meet at the pullout atop San Agustin Pass. Leave field trip around 11:00. Participants must register by August 15th, so names can be sent to WSMR for security purposes. If you are not a U.S. citizen, contact Ray Bowers.

5. **Justin Van Zee and Paul Harper: Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park.** Justin Van Zee will guide the group along an established trail in a bajada area right next to the Doña Ana Mountains. You may be on the new Arroyo Trail, or on the main trail. Level: easy to moderate. Easy driving conditions to the parking lot.

6. **Tom Packard and Patrick Alexander: Dripping Springs Natural Area.** Dripping Springs lies at the base of the Organ Mountains, so the vegetation is desert scrub, ascending to oak and pinyon trees. The easy trails take you through great scenery and flora and past the picturesque remains of a hotel and sanatorium. You can easily drive to the visitors' center and pay a \$3 fee per car. Limit: 20.

7. **Ray Bowers: A workshop on using plant classification in the classroom** at the Farm and Ranch Museum. This is informational for local chapters or for classroom teachers. Starting time: 9:30 a.m. Limit: 25.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm	Brandon Bestelmeyer: "Changes in Rangelands, Past and Present"
2:40 pm - 3:30 pm	Nathan Small: New Mexico Wilderness Alliance: "The Next Generation: Binding Old Wisdom & Young Energy to Create Conservation Momentum"
3:30 pm - 3:40 pm	Final bidding on silent auction
3:40 pm - 4:30 pm	Dave Anderson: Biologist at White Sands Missile Range: "Flora and Vegetation Communities of White Sands Missile Range"
6:30 pm	Banquet at the Farm and Ranch Museum <u>Keynote Speaker:</u> Eric Metzler, Retired Entomologist: "eHarmony.com"

Sunday, September 28

7:30 am - **Field Trips**

(Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis)

Be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, hiking shoes, and water. If the trip has extended periods outside, a lightweight, long-sleeved shirt will help protect your arms.

8. **Greg Magee: Hike in Percha Box.** Percha Box is about an hour and a half north of Las Cruces near Hillsboro. The hiking route follows a jeep trail to the perennial stream of Percha Creek in a beautiful canyon with riparian vegetation surrounded by typical Chihuahuan Desert scrub and grasslands on the uplands. The hike is about 4 miles round trip with mostly moderate grades. The last portion of the hike into the “box” is steep and rocky. The return to Las Cruces will be by 4:00 at the latest. Some may wish to travel directly home from the hike area. Please carpool. The parking area is a gravel patch just off the road, so high-clearance vehicles are not needed.

9. **Nathan Small: A hike in Broad Canyon.** The Broad Canyon area lies in the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, some 25 miles north of Las Cruces. There are a large variety of habitats. The final approach to this area is over unpaved, rocky roads, so high clearance vehicles are advised. Parking is extremely limited, so please carpool. This will be a lengthy hike time-wise, so participants may want to leave from here to return home to areas other than Las Cruces. Limit: 20.

10. **Jackye Meinecke: A walk-and-talk through her nursery, Enchanted Gardens.** Her knowledgeable explanations will help expand participants’ understanding of plants especially suited to New Mexico’s and West Texas’s climates. There is no limit on the number of participants, but parking is limited, so please carpool. Plants and accessories will be available for sale, but there is no pressure to buy. Note: Starts at 10:00 a.m.

11. **Donovan Bailey and Rolston St. Hilaire: Visit NMSU Herbarium and Campus.** Dr. Donovan Bailey will conduct a tour through the NMSU herbarium. Then Dr. St. Hilaire will lead a walking tour of campus trees and shrubs. Limit: 25. Parking is easily available on campus on Sunday.

12. **Tom Packard and Patrick Alexander: Hiking the Sierra Vista Trail.** The Sierra Vista Trail runs along the base of the Organ Mountains. The views are great! We will walk only about 2 to 3 hours. The trail was developed by the BLM for bikers and horseback riders, but hikers often use it, too. It is rated easy to moderate. Limit: 20.

Questions or Concerns about the meeting?

Please contact Ray Bowers at 575-541-1877 or rsbowers@zianet.com

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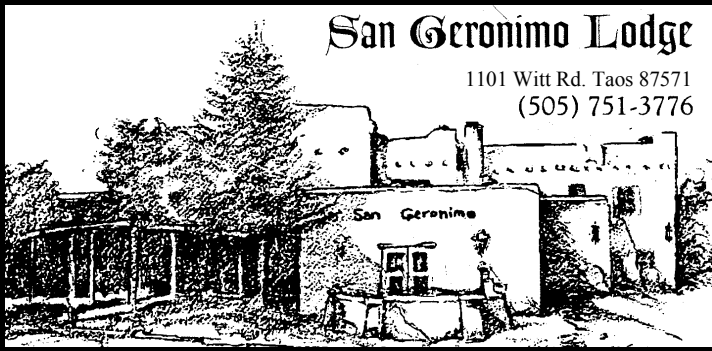
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Chapter Activities & Events

Albuquerque

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

April 25-26—Plant Sale. Set up: Friday, 9:30 am-12 pm, at Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd. (between Wyoming and Eubank in Los Altos Park). Sale: Friday 1-4 pm, Saturday 9 am-4 pm. If you'll help, contact Beth Herschman at 892-8751 or Herschman9@aol.com, or Laura White at 243-5069 or laura@unm.edu.

May 4 walk—Meet Al and Betty Schneider at the Zuni-Acoma Trail in the Malpais between Acoma Pueblo and Grants. Details TBA.

May 7 talk—"Four Corners Flora" by Al Schneider. Chance to see the spectacular photos and possibly purchase one of Betty's beautiful beaded lanyards for your hand lens.

May 10—The Arboretum Tomé Spring Open House. The Arboretum Tomé is a private project that Michael Melendrez has been developing for over 20 years. He has remediated the awful saline and alkaline clay soils at the site. The Arboretum has the largest collection of oak species in the U.S. and the largest Chihuahuan Desert native tree collection. Open house is free and will have speakers. To find the site, google map the address: 9 Gilcrease Road, Los Lunas, NM 87031, or call the Trees That Please nursery at 505-866-5027.

May 17 walk—Don Heinze will lead a field trip 15 miles east of Tomé Hill to the west pediment of the Manzanos. Meet on north side of Wal-Mart parking lot, North Coors exit on I-40. Wal-Mart is to the right about ¼ mile north of the exit.

June 7 walk—Don Heinze will lead a field trip to Sumner Lake in De Baca County in eastern NM where we will collect herbarium specimens. Those who wish can camp out or stay at Ft. Sumner to the southeast. Details TBA.

June 28 walk—Don Heinze will lead a field trip to Torreon Canyon in the Manzanos. Meet on the

(Continued on page 13)

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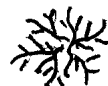
3729 Arno Street NE

in Albuquerque

open daily March through October

winter hours by appointment

345-6248



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Chapter Activities & Events

west side of Smith's parking lot at Tramway and Central, to leave by 9 am.

El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 pm at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant. All society events are free unless otherwise noted. Non-members are always welcome.

April 10 talk—"FloraFest Preview" by Wynn Anderson, Botanical Curator for the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, will present a preview of the native plants that will be offered for sale to the public April 26-27 at FloraFest. Great opportunity to plan ahead for plants to enhance your landscape.

May 8 talk—"Celebrating Ten Years of Restoration of Rio Bosque Wetlands in Mission Valley" by John Sproul, UTEP Center for Environmental Resource Management. Wetlands and riverside forests once graced the banks of the Rio Grande. Now virtually gone, they were once the most productive habitats in the region. Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is a 372-acre city park managed by the Center where a diverse partnership is working to bring back meaningful examples of valuable ecosystems once found in our river valley.

June 12 talk—"Copper Canyon" with speaker TBD. Copper Canyon (Barranca del Cobre) is a group of six distinct canyons in the Sierra Tarahumara in the southwestern part of the state of Chihuahua in Mexico. The overall canyon system is larger and portions are deeper than the Grand Canyon, although Grand Canyon is larger than any of the individual canyons. Copper Canyon is home to the indigenous Tarahumara people, noted for their stamina as mountain runners.

Gila (Silver City)

All programs and hikes are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall, with refreshments after. Hikers meet at 8 am in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre the morning of the hike to arrange carpooling. Participants must sign release-of-liability form at that time, and will receive a list of native plants in the hiking area. For more info, call Deming Gustafson,

575-388-5192. Bring water, food, hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes.

April 20 walk—West side of Tres Hermanas Mountains, just north of Columbus. Spring should be in evidence there, and we hope to come across such treasures as *Hibiscus denudatus* and *Krameria erecta* in bloom.

April 25 talk—"The Flora of Navajo Land" by Arnold Clifford, field botanist and environmental consultant. He will compare how plants are classified by the Navajo with the binomial nomenclature more widely in use today.

May 18 walk—Wayne Buckner will lead a hike off Ridge Road (the airport road) and share his considerable knowledge of the area and its flora. Often overlooked, this area will most likely be exhibiting a wide variety of spring blossoms.

June 15 walk—Hike up Meadow Creek from its first intersection with Forest Road 149 (off Highway 15, about 6 miles north of Pinos Altos). Expect to see a number of interesting and unusual plants, such as one intriguing little *Sedum* and perhaps a couple of the elusive orchids, in this cooler area. This should be an easy hike up a combination creek bed and mountain trail.

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. (On the right, while traveling east on Buena Vida from Telshor.) Field trips are Saturdays. Most field trips extend into the afternoon. Bring lunch, water, sun protection, plant field guides, and wear good walking shoes. Participants must sign release of liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Everything is free and non-members are always welcome. Contact Ray Bowers 575-541-1877; Carolyn Gressitt 575-523-8413; or Al Krueger 575-532-1036.

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.

May 14 talk—"Flora of the Milnesand Area" by Rob Strahan.

May 17—Meet at 8 am at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park to help with the Park's plant project.

June 11 talk—"Mosses of New Mexico" by

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Chapter Activities & Events

Kelly Allred.

June 14 walk— Trip to the Gallinas Canyon in the Black Range led by John and Carolyn to study the plants. Meet at 7 am at K-mart parking lot on Hwy 70 where we will carpool.

July 9 talk—“Butterflies” by Greg Forbs.

July 12 walk—Greg Forbs will lead a trip to the Sacramento Mountains to study butterflies and plants. Meet at 8 am at K-mart parking lot on Hwy 70, where we will carpool.

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip info, contact 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.

April 12 walk—Field trip to Jarilla Mountains near Orogrande, with the Las Cruces Chapter. Details will be available later.

April 19—Plant Sale at Garden Center in Alamogordo, 8 am-1 pm. Everyone who can, please help! Contact Helgi at 575-585-3315, 575-443-3928, or hkasak@netmdc.com. Thanks!

April 19-20—Flower and garden exhibit at the White Sands Mall, Alamogordo. NPSNM Otero Chapter will have an exhibit table.

April 26—Earth Day, 9 am-4 pm, Alamogordo Zoo. To help out, please contact Helgi, as above.

May 17 walk—Field trip to White Sands Missile Range. Contact John Stockert, 575-585-2546, or jwstockert@tularosa.net.

June 21 walk—Field trip to Atkinson Canyon, led by William Herndon. Meet at 8:30 am at intersection of N. Florida and Hwy 82.

San Juan (Farmington)

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

Events TBA.

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.

April 16 talk (open to all)—“Ancient Yucca Textiles” by Dr. Eric Blinman, director of the Office of Archaeological Studies for NM.

April 25 (SF Chapter members only)—Santa Fe Chapter Native Plant buying day. Members of the Santa Fe Chapter are invited to visit local plant nurseries and receive discounts on native plants. Agua Fria Nursery and the Santa Ana Pueblo wholesale nursery are among those to be visited. Contact Tom Antonio or Carol Johnson for info.

May 25 (SF Chapter members only)—Gardens in Progress Tour. Members of Santa Fe Chapter are invited to tour gardens in and around Santa Fe. Four gardens selected so far; we are open to other suggestions. Contact Tom Antonio or Carol Johnson.

June 21 walk (open to all)—Native Plant walk at Los Pinos Ranch in Cowles, NM, with owner Alice M. McSweeney. We may see lady slipper orchids! Meet at 9 am and car pool from Santa Fe (1-hour drive). Contact Tom Antonio or Carol Johnson.

Taos

Meetings are second Wednesdays at 7 pm at San Geronimo Lodge. For more info on field trips and other activities, contact David Witt, 575-758-0619, or davidlwitt@cybermesa.com.

NOTE: Exciting roster of field trips is planned; dates are still pending. Check the web link for this chapter for updates. Chapter members will get e-mail or USPS mail notification.

May 14 talk—Carolyn Dodson, author with William Dunmire of *Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies: Revealing Their Natural History*. Dodson is retired from the faculty of UNM General Library and teaches wildflower identification at UNM's Continuing Education Division. She will discuss her new book, a highly recommended field guide to the common wildflowers of this region.

June 11 talk—“Alpine Wildflowers” by member David Witt. An informative and colorful presentation by an accomplished photographer. Witt’s slide shows are always a visual treat and his breadth of knowledge on this topic is astounding. Weather permitting, a discovery field trip will follow the next day!



Review

Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies

Revealing Their Natural History

Book by Carolyn Dodson and William W. Dunmire
 University of New Mexico Press, 2007
 (Available from NPSNM Books)

I first met Carolyn Dodson when I took a course in Pollination Biology at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in the fall of 1988. What I did not know at the time was that this course was a springboard for Carolyn's 20-year endeavor to learn whatever she could about the wildflowers of our beloved northern New Mexico mountains as well as the those of neighboring Colorado. She has utilized this information to develop a course in wildflower identification, which she has taught every summer since 1988 through the UNM Department of Continuing Education. The knowledge Carolyn gained during those 20 years of improving her wildflower identification course is now available in the form of a book she has produced with the able assistance of Bill Dunmire: *Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies: Revealing Their Natural History*.

The book focuses on 75 selected wildflowers that are common and characteristic of the southern Rocky Mountain Region. The wildflowers selected were also chosen to illustrate 37 plant families of flowering plants that occur in the region. Two side-by-side facing pages are devoted to each species. For handy thumbing reference, the margins of the pages are marked in green with the common name of the family to which the species belongs. Each species is well illustrated with one or two photographs taken by Carolyn or Bill, and sometimes with a line drawing by wildflower artist Walter Graf.

The layout for each wildflower species includes a description of the plant, as well as additional information on a variety of topics such as the role of insects and hummingbirds in pollination and seed dispersal, human uses of

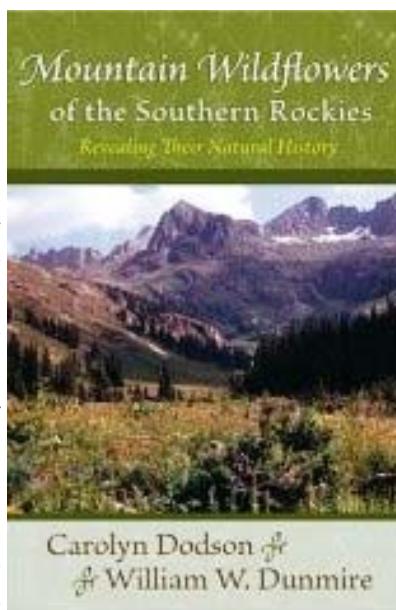
selected plants, adaptations for survival, the origins of scientific and common names, plant family characteristics, and brief histories of famous botanical collectors.

Perhaps the book's most notable contribution is the often-detailed accounts of how the co-evolution of insects and hummingbirds with flowers has produced the vast diversity of wildflower colors, sizes, and shapes. Pollination strategies are discussed for more than half of the plants in the book. Generally, specific kinds of insects are attracted to the flower, which usually contains sugary nectar. Flower structures are arranged in such a way to facilitate the adherence of pollen to the insect as it pursues the nectar reward. The insect then flies to another flower and rubs off the pollen on the stigma of the new flower, thereby insuring that the resultant seeds have genes from two separate parents. The book relates many variations on the pollination theme that include such things as buzz pollination in *Dodecatheon*, the "tripping" mechanism in pea flowers, nectar thieves, and nectar robbers.

The book is designed to provide guidance to both mountain hikers with little knowledge of wildflower biology as well as those with a strong knowledge of wildflower natural history. But the book promises to be most useful as a source of information for teachers and environmental educators leading field trips for both children and adults into our beloved mountains.

Books that document the natural history and habitat requirements of native plants are sadly lacking in New Mexico. Hopefully, this book will mark the start of a series of similar publications.

--Reviewed by Jim McGrath



2008 State Meeting Registration Form

Please send a separate form and check for each attendee.
Checks should be made payable to NPSNM-Las Cruces Chapter.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Saturday Field Trip 1st Choice (#) ____ 2nd Choice (#) ____
Sunday Field Trip 1st Choice (#) ____ 2nd Choice (#) ____

Registration: NPSNM Member:

Before 8/15/08 \$55

After 8/15/08 \$65

Non-Member (includes one year membership):

Before 8/15/08 \$70

After 8/15/08 \$80

Number Attending Friday Reception: _____

Banquet (included) Pork: Chicken: Vegetarian:

Banquet Guest (\$21) Pork: Chicken: Vegetarian:

Send registration forms and checks to:
NPSNM--Rose Mary LaPlante, P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Questions or concerns?

Please contact: Ray Bowers at 575-541-1877 or rsbowers@zianet.com

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