



# NEWSLETTER\*

of the

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2009

VOL. XXXIV No. 2

### Annual Meeting in Taos: August 6–9 From Mountain Peaks to River Valleys

Taos is a legendary art colony, a popular ski resort, and an exciting year-round tourist destination. Taos has numerous great restaurants, world class art galleries, tons of local charm, and breathtaking natural beauty. So plan to be in Taos this August!

The Taos Chapter has put together an outstanding slate of speakers, some controversial enough to rouse your interest, a great photo essay, many fabulous workshops and field trips. Taos hiking is always spectacular and, in keeping with the theme of the conference, one will provide a view at least of the tallest mountain



Rio Grande above John Dunn Bridge

in the state, and another will introduce the riparian environment. The keynote speaker is William A. Weber, known to many for his outstanding publications on Colorado plants. On Friday evening all attendees are invited to a reception at the historic Couse House garden.

The conference will be held at the historic Kachina Lodge, an easy stroll to the picturesque Taos Plaza. Your confer-

ence rate will include a full hot breakfast and a glass of wine, beer, or a margarita daily and can be extended to two days before and after the Conference. ❖

*See full details on pages 7–10. Registration form on back page.*

### Statewide Workshop Scheduled for May 15

by Sandra D. Lynn

When the results of the 2007 NPSNM survey came in, respondents said they liked the idea of workshops in plant identification and landscaping with natives. The largest number of plant ID requests in the survey were for a workshop on grasses. So, since one of the primary assignments I was given as administrative coordinator was to set up work-

shops, I decided to begin with that, in August 2008. It had been several years since the last state workshops had been held, arranged by former president, Bob Sivinski, so we got a big response to the first new one. Former president Chick Keller and NMSU professor Kelly Allred taught a very successful grass ID workshop in Los Alamos.

*Continued page 4*

\***Your winning idea here? See details of newsletter naming contest, p. 4!**

## From the President

by Tom Antonio

At the end of January the NPSNM held its annual board meeting at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge. Let me begin by thanking all those who attended and gave of their time and resources to help the Society remain strong. It was a spirited meeting, with representatives from all eight chapters attending. One of the more important issues discussed was a membership dues increase. The board voted to approve this increase, the details of which are discussed in a separate article below.

A number of other board decisions were enacted that we believe will make for a better and stronger organization. The Society changed its financial institution to the New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union (NMEFCU). They are a not-for-profit financial cooperative and all their profit is returned to their members and communities in New Mexico. They have local offices throughout the state, and I urge all chapters and members to consider joining this worthwhile organization. New membership brochures were designed pro-bono by David Grey, an Assistant Professor of Graphic and Digital Design at the College of Santa Fe. When you see his wonderful new design, I know you will join me in thanking him for his creativity and hard work.

Again this year the board approved providing \$500 to each of these herbaria: University of NM, New Mexico State



University, San Juan College, Western New Mexico University, and University of Texas at El Paso. It is my goal that someday soon we will increase these donations so that these institutions can continue the incredible work they do in studying and preserving the native plants of New Mexico. In addition, the board approved providing a total of \$5,000 to six very interesting and valuable projects (see details in article below).

Last year we named our grant program after Jack and Martha Carter. At the meeting we were informed that the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Endowment Fund has now grown to nearly \$10,000, a remarkable level after less than a year of fund-raising. I urge you to consider making a contribution to this fund, which will allow us to continue to support the many worthwhile projects that request funding from the Society. For those of you interested in further details of the board meeting, please visit our Web site, where the minutes of the meeting will be posted. Again, my thanks to all those hardworking individuals who make being a part of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico so enjoyable.

Finally, I want to welcome Sarah Johnson as our new newsletter editor. Sarah comes to us with an extensive background in editing, writing, layout, and design. Please e-mail her at [sarita505@yahoo.com](mailto:sarita505@yahoo.com) with your articles, suggestions for articles, and photos from your chapter activities. ❖

## 2009 Grants Awarded by Board

The NPSNM board of directors awarded \$5,000 in grants for 2009 to the following projects:

- Doctoral study of xeric-adapted trees in mesic landscapes: \$1,000
- K-12 science education programs for disadvantaged students: \$1,000
- Travel Planning on the Gila National Forest: \$1,000
- Native plant restoration at Randall Davey Audubon Center: \$500
- Field work toward a new Flora of New Mexico: \$500
- K-8 school garden to demonstrate native plants, xeriscaping, habitat, and plants that control diabetes: \$1,000

## NPSNM Board Approves Changes to the Dues Structure

The NPSNM board has approved changes to the dues structure for the society, effective March 1, 2009. The board voted to raise individual memberships to \$25; to add a family category of \$30; and to increase to \$15 the category for seniors, students, and those with limited incomes. It was agreed that this modest increase was necessary if we are to continue to be a strong voice for New Mexico's plants. We last increased dues nearly 10 years ago.

This decision was vigorously discussed by all those present, and it was agreed that the additional funds generated

were needed to balance our annual budget and allow for the continuation of our grants program. Each year the Society provides \$500 to each of New Mexico's five major herbaria; we also provide funds for education and research on the rich and diverse botanical heritage of the state. You can see details about our grants at <http://npsnm.unm.edu/grants>. The program is open to any project within New Mexico that contributes to the Society's goals. Previously funded projects have involved education, art, landscaping and special plantings, signage, training, research, and conservation. ❖

**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. Members also qualify for membership in New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union (see description in article below). 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.

**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.

**Next Deadline is June 1, 2009!**

Manuscripts and print-quality artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at [sarita505@yahoo.com](mailto:sarita505@yahoo.com).

**New Benefit for NPSNM Members**

New to NPSNM members is qualification for membership in New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. NMEFCU is a not-for-profit cooperative that provides a full range of financial services, including low-cost mortgages, equity loans and auto loans; education loans for professional development; a Visa® Platinum Rewards Card; 14 full-service branch locations from Taos to Socorro; no-cost Internet Banking; Bill Payer and Mobile Banking service; no-fee checking; and over 25,000 no-fee ATMs nationwide. More details are available at [www.nmefcu.org](http://www.nmefcu.org).

In addition, we are studying the feasibility of issuing NPS membership cards to current members and hoping to negotiate discounts with local businesses. ❖

**NPSNM Membership Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter:  
(Please check only one)*

- Albuquerque
- El Paso, TX
- Gila (Silver City)
- Las Cruces
- No affiliation
- I am interested in forming a new chapter in \_\_\_\_\_
- Otero (Alamogordo)
- San Juan (Farmington)
- Santa Fe
- Taos

**Annual Dues:**

Individual	\$ 25
Family	30
Friend of the Society	50
Sponsor	100
Patron	250
Life Member	1,000
Limited Income, Students, and Seniors (65+)	15

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*Make your check payable to*

**NPSNM**

*and send to*

**Membership Secretary**

**P.O. Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176**

**Statewide Water Workshop** (continued from p. 1)

The next workshop will take place in Albuquerque on May 15. (A flyer and registration form can be found on the facing page.) The workshop will consist of three outstanding speakers on the topic "Becoming Rain Keepers, Getting Ready for the Rainy (or Not) Season." Most of us have had a dry winter and know that we need to plan how to capture for the good of our plants every drop of rain we may be fortunate enough to get this summer. After speaker presentations and box lunches, participants will visit some gardens that make use of special techniques for capturing rainwater.

Speaker Judith Phillips is well known to many NPSNM members. She is the author of several books on landscaping in the Southwest with native and xeric plants, grows and

sells such plants at Bernardo Beach Native Plant farm near Albuquerque, and is a landscape designer. Jim Brooks, a soil conservation specialist for over 18 years, is co-founder and president of Soilutions, an Albuquerque recycling company that specializes in manufacturing organic composts. It also has a landscape division concerned with rainwater harvesting and erosion control. Richard Jennings' company, Earthwrights Designs, is located in Santa Fe and specializes in designing systems that make the most efficient use of water in homes, landscapes, and communities.

Members and nonmembers from all over the state are encouraged to attend the workshop. Just fill out the registration form, clip it out, and send it in with your check. ❖

# WANTED



## NPSNM Book Committee Chair

*Do you love books? Do you love your native plant society?*

Think how much love could be had—by you and for you—if you became the next NPSNM Book Committee Chairperson! ■ NPSNM generates approximately \$10,000 in book sales each year, which nets \$3,000 to \$4,000 in much-needed revenue. The book chair is responsible for maintaining the inventory stock, handling orders and questions from members, and preparing reports as needed for the president and the board. At the annual meeting, the book chair is responsible for setting up and operating a sales table of titles on hand. This position pays a modest annual honorarium of \$500 and many times that amount in satisfaction. ■ If interested, send your résumé to Tom Antonio, PO Box 782, Cerrillos, NM 87101, or [tantonio@csf.edu](mailto:tantonio@csf.edu).

### Win a *Free Book*\* from the NPSNM Bookstore!

**H**ere's another chance to show your creativity. A few months ago the Native Plant Society of New Mexico needed a slogan, so we held a contest, and Hope Woodward won with "New Mexico's Voice for Native Plants" as our new motto.

*Now we need a new name for our quarterly newsletter*, something unique to our state. Here are some examples of other states' Native Plant Society newsletter titles:

*Castilleja* (Wyoming) • *Aquilegia* (Colorado) • *Gaillardia* (Oklahoma) • *Harbinger* (Illinois) • *Inpaws Journal* (Indiana) • *New England Wild* (New England Wildflower Society) • *NPSOT News* (Texas) • *The Plant Press* (Arizona)

These are not offered as examples of the best of all possible newsletter titles but are just to give you an idea of what's out there. Maybe we can come up with something better!

*If you have an idea for a memorable, appealing title for our newsletter* and would like to submit it to the contest, send your entry to the recording secretary, Pam McBride, at [ebotpam@msn.com](mailto:ebotpam@msn.com). Just write your suggested title and e-mail it 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 title 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, 2009.**

\*up to a value of \$50

# BECOMING RAIN KEEPERS

Getting Your Garden Ready for the Rainy (or Not) Season

**May 15, 2009**

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A Workshop Sponsored by the Native Plant Society of NM  
NM Educators Federal Credit Union Training Center  
and selected gardens in Albuquerque

**PRESENTERS:**

Jim Brooks of Soilutions

Richard Jennings of Earthwrights Designs

Judith Phillips of Bernardo Beach Native Plant Nursery



Emphasis will be on ways to design or redesign gardens to make effective and beautiful use of limited water.

**WORKSHOP FEES** NPSNM members: \$45 (Workshop volunteers: \$40) Nonmembers: \$50

You may register by mail. Send a check or money order made out to NPSNM with the form below to: Administrative Coordinator, NPSNM  
1814 Hermosa Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110-4924

**If you must cancel,** all but \$5 of your fee will be refunded if notice of your cancellation is received by May 4. A map to the workshop and schedule information will be e-mailed, so please include an e-mail address. If you have questions, call 505-256-2594 or e-mail [sandra.d.lynn@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.d.lynn@gmail.com).

### Workshop Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Area Code) Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline: May 8**

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

### Board of Directors

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**Vice-President** Renée West keywestern@hotmail.com 575/885-3636  
**Recording Secretary** Pam McBride ebotpam@msn.com 505/343-9472  
**Membership Secretary** Lolly Jones ljones20@comcast.net 505/771-8020  
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## Important Reminder about Mail to NPSNM Post Office Box

When you address mail to P.O. Box 35388, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87176-5388, please be sure to indicate the purpose of the mail *on the outside* of the envelope. Two people are checking mail regularly, and we need to be able to identify each piece of mail as to purpose so that it goes to the right place. So, for example, if you are sending in a membership renewal, please write **Membership Secretary** on the outside of the envelope. If you are sending in a donation to the Carter Conservation Endowment Fund, please write **Carter Fund** on the outside of the envelope.

On the other hand, mail intended for a specific individual should be e-mailed if possible directly to that person at the address provided above. Your assistance with correct mail labeling and addressing will help your officers and administrative coordinator deal efficiently with society business. *Thanks!* ❖



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Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
**2009 Annual Meeting**

*From* **Mountain Peaks**



Thursday, August 6  
to  
Sunday, August 9



Best Western Kachina Lodge  
Taos, New Mexico



*to* **River Valleys**

**Conference Location:** The meeting will be held at The Best Western Kachina Lodge on Paseo del Pueblo Norte/US 64, four blocks north of Taos Plaza on the right.

**Accommodations:** We have arranged for special conference rates at the Best Western Kachina Lodge. Be sure to tell them you are with the Native Plant Society when you call for reservations: 575/758-2275 or 800/522-4462. Lodge reservations should be made by July 1 to ensure conference rates. Rates are \$89 per night and include full hot breakfast; a glass of wine, beer, or a margarita each evening; outdoor swimming pool; and free Wi-Fi connection. This rate will be available for 2 days prior to and two days after the Conference. If you have any problems just ask for Cheryl Webster, who is our coordinator at the Kachina.

**Registration:** See back page of this newsletter for Conference Registration Form.

## 2009 Annual Meeting Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

### Best Western Kachina Lodge, Taos, New Mexico

#### Thursday, August 6

- 1:30–5:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting
- 3:00–6:00 pm Registration
- 4:00–5:00 pm Wildflower Walk for early arrivals
- 5:00–6:00 pm Technical run-through for Speakers
- 5:00–Midnight Social gathering in the Kachina Bar

#### Friday, August 7 Morning Session

- 7:30 am–4:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 am–4:00 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction
- 8:45–9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks—Kathryn Peel, President, Taos Chapter NPSNM  
Invocation by a Taos Pueblo representative
- 9:00–9:30 am Photo Essay of the Landscapes and Plants of Taos—David L. Witt
- 9:30–10:15 am Alpine: Mountain Tops, Arctic Connections, and Global Change—Patrick Webber and David L. Witt
- 10:15–10:30 am Short Break
- 10:30–11:15 am Forest: Sudden Aspen Decline and Carson National Forest—Clark Kendall
- 11:15–12:00 pm Intermountain: Ute Mountain, an Island Ecosystem—Linus Meyer and colleagues from The Bureau of Land Management
- 12:00–1:30 pm Lunch (on your own—see Sally and Andy Wasowski's Taos Restaurant Guide)

#### Friday, August 7 Afternoon Session

- 1:30–2:15 pm Riparian: Salt Cedar Ecology in the Southwest—Edward Glenn
- 2:15–3:00 pm The Indo-hispano Agricultural Tradition in Northern New Mexico: Its Influence on the Flora and Landscape—Juan Estevan Arellano
- 3:00–3:15 pm Short Break
- 3:15–4:00 pm What Can an Amateur Botanist Contribute Toward the Understanding of Regional Botany?—Al Schneider and Chick Keller
- 4:00–5:00 pm Plant Vignettes—Short presentations by enthusiasts on interesting plants found in our Southern Rocky Mountains and the Upper Rio Grande Basin
- 5:30 pm Cocktail Reception and Book Signing at Couse Foundation—This is the home and studio of Eanger Irving Couse, the prominent early 20th century painter of American Indian subjects. Couse was one of the founders of the Taos Art Colony and first president of the Taos Society of Artists. This historic site includes not only his home and studio, but also the garden designed by his wife, Virginia, where the reception will be held.

#### Saturday, August 8 Morning Session—Concurrent Field Trips and Workshops

- 8:00 am–2:45 pm Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please sign up for workshops/field trips when you register for the Annual Meeting, indicating first, second, and third choice. Be advised that the scheduled plenary program resumes at 2:45 pm. You can have lunch "on your own" or order a box lunch to take on your morning excursion. Box lunches will be available for purchase at the Kachina Lodge with advance reservation. (\$8.95 per lunch: a sandwich, chips, drink, cookie, and piece of fruit.)

##### 1. Native Plant Identification, Seed Collection, Preparation, Propagation

*Leaders:* Ty Minton, Frank Oatman, Diane Reichwein, Mike Howard, Patrick Webber

Native plant propagation provides educational, preservation, and fundraising opportunities for the Taos Chapter. Activities include: a demonstration and discussion of native seed collection, cleaning, growing



techniques, and an introduction to the international “Seeds of Success” program; a guided tour of our greenhouse (with its solar-powered irrigation system); and an overview of the Taos Chapter Herbarium activities and goals. (*Limit: 25*)

## 2. The Digital Camera, the Afficionado, and the Native Plant

*Leaders:* Amadeus Leitner, Bob Fitch, Mary Pickett, Ron Furedi

Professional photographers/artists will share their experience in digital photography to create art from the flora and landscape. Bring your camera! (*Limit: 25*)

## 3. Grass Identification

*Leader:* Chick Keller

This is a beginner's workshop in identifying native grasses with NPSNM's former President. Basic leaf, stem, and grass structure will be demonstrated. There will be an easy stroll to gain recognition and identification skills. (*Limit: 25*)

## 4. Learn to Restore a Wetland to Its Native Environment

*Leader:* Judy Lister

Take an easy walk through the Baca Park Wetlands Restoration Project to identify native plants and the invasive species that threaten this ecosystem. (*Limit: 25*)

## 5. From Mountain Peaks to River Valleys in Your Own Garden

*Leaders:* Judith Phillips, Kathryn Peel

We will visit three local gardens and learn how to incorporate native plants utilizing typical microclimates of New Mexico gardens. (*Limit: 25*)

## 6. Fire Ecology and Range Restoration

*Leaders:* Linus Meyer, Tony Benson, Steve Robertson

This is a trip into seldom-visited piñon-juniper forested areas north of Taos, with Pot Mountain as the final destination, to examine fire recovery progress. (Participants can compare this to a decade-old mountain forest fire area on the Sunday Lama trip.) We will take two or three high-clearance vehicles. Volunteer drivers with 4WD vehicles may be needed. (*Limit: 12*)

## 7. The Awesome Cactus

*Leaders:* John Ubelaker, Marianne Furedi

We will visit the cactus collection at the Taos campus of SMU and hear fascinating tales of evolutionary, botanical, and ecological importance. (*Limit: 25*)

## 8. Aldo Leopold House

*Leaders:* Ben Romero, Betsy Robertson

This is a rare opportunity to visit the house where Aldo Leopold lived when he worked as a ranger for the Carson National Forest. We will hear about the life and work of Leopold, especially his importance to conservation including the concept of the “land ethic” and the continuing influence of his ideas on the U.S. Forest Service. We will also have an opportunity to see wildflowers, possibly even the rare endemic aster *Haplopappus microcephalus*. (*Limit: 30*)

## Saturday, August 8 Afternoon Session

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 12:30–3:00 pm   | Book Sale and final bidding on Silent Auction  |
| 3:00–5:00 pm    | Panel Forum and Open Discussion—Our speakers and audience will be invited to comment on the ideas presented during the symposium and share their ideas on how Society members can improve knowledge and understanding of our local floras. A list of ideas will be compiled for Board consideration as potential state-wide initiatives. Chaired by Chick Keller, and recorded by Barbara Scott. |
| 5:00 pm–5:15 pm | Official Closing—NPSNM President Thomas M. Antonio   |
| 5:15 pm         | Pick up Silent Auction Items   |
| 6:30 pm         | Banquet at the Best Western Kachina Lodge  |
|                 | Keynote Speaker: William A. Weber, Professor and Curator Emeritus, University of Colorado Herbarium—“The Importance of Mentors for Young Botanists”  |

## Sunday, August 9 Field Trips

All field trips depart at 8:00 am from the Best Western Kachina Lodge. Participants will be required to sign a release of liability form. You must bring appropriate footwear, raingear, and water and be in adequate physical condition to meet the elevation gain and length of the hikes. You may want to bring a hat, sunglasses, camera, binoculars, field guides, a close-up plant-viewing lens, sunscreen, and lunch. Plant lists will be available for all field trips. Participants should consider described trail conditions that will be encountered, the time needed to complete each trip, and plan their departure schedule accordingly. We invite participants to consider remaining in the Taos area through Sunday night.

### 9. Subalpine to Treeline

*Leader:* Patrick Webber

We will drive 45 minutes northeast through the Taos Ski Valley (Highway 150), continuing up to the "Hikers Parking Lot." From there we will walk the 2.5 miles through floristically rich areas to a sub-alpine lake set at the bottom of the majestic slope of Mt. Wheeler, the highest point in New Mexico. Our route includes a small marsh, deep forest, and below-treeline alpine ecosystems. Difficulty level: Moderate. Elevation range: 10,000–11,000'. Approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit:* 25)

### 10. William's Lake and Alpine Ecosystems

*Leader:* David L. Witt

This trip is almost identical to the one above, but on it we will spend less time with lower elevation plants, continuing on to a large sub-alpine marsh above Williams Lake, and a steep slope upward to concentrate on the alpine ecosystems. Expect upwards of 8 miles round-trip. Difficulty level: Strenuous. Elevation range: 10,000–12,000'. Approx. hiking time: 7 hrs. (*Limit:* 10)

### 11. Santa Barbara Canyon

*Leader:* Ty Minton

This trip should be considered for those of you who will be going south from Taos at the end of the Annual Meeting. A 45-minute drive south (Highways 518, 75, 73) will take us to the Rio Santa Barbara and a trail south along its Middle Fork through meadows to a mixed conifer ecosystem that presents a wealth of flower species to examine. We will likely make our way along a wide trail for 2 miles or so before returning by the same route. Difficulty level: Easy–Moderate. Elevation range: 8,800–9,800'. Approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit:* 25)

### 12. Lama Forest Fire Area Mixed Conifer Ecosystems

*Leader:* George Long

A large fire, the "Hondo," occurred north of Taos in 1997. This area, spreading from piñon-juniper through Ponderosa upwards to spruce-fir, has been slowly repairing itself with little help from land managers. We will view recovered and recovering areas. This will require car-pooling in high-clearance vehicles, with limited hiking in Lama Canyon. Difficulty level: Easy–Moderate. Elevation range: 7,600–8,600'. Approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit:* 20)

### 13. Rio Grande Riparian Walk

*Leaders:* Marianne and Ron Furedi

A gentle stroll along the river just beyond the Taos Junction Bridge north of Pilar. There is a small day-use fee for this trail. Difficulty level: Easy. Elevation range: 6,100–6,200'. Approx. hiking time: 2 hrs. (*Limit:* 25)

### 14. Agua Piedra Meadow and Spruce Forest

*Leaders:* Karen Epperson, Steve Robertson, Steve Cary

We will drive 45 minutes south of Taos, ending up on NM 518 near Tres Ritos at a Forest Service campground. Meadows and spruce forest habitats present a wealth of wildflower species to examine and enjoy. With Steve Cary's expertise, we will also be identifying butterflies in this open meadow. This is an especially beautiful mountain valley. Difficulty level: Easy. Elevation: 8,500–9,000'. Approx. hiking time: 3–4 hrs. (*Limit:* 25)

### Questions or concerns about the meeting? Please contact:

Betsy Robertson (575/751-9592, [bsrob4@msn.com](mailto:bsrob4@msn.com)) or Patrick Webber (575/751-9803, [webber@msu.edu](mailto:webber@msu.edu))

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Proceeds will support research and education via the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on the following events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's Web page: first go to <http://npsnm.unm.edu>; click on Local Chapters; then select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear good shoes.

### Albuquerque

Monthly meetings are first Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For further info contact Pam McBride, 343-9472, [ebotpam@msn.com](mailto:ebotpam@msn.com); Frances Robertson, 828-4775, [frobertson45@comcast.net](mailto:frobertson45@comcast.net); or Jim McGrath, 286-8745, [sedges@swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com). For meeting places, indicated [A] through [H], see Web site. For field trip info, contact Don Heinze, 565-1441, [donald\\_heinze@yahoo.com](mailto:donald_heinze@yahoo.com). Field trips marked \*\* subject to cancellation due to lack of rain.

**Apr 1** Meeting. Native Shrubs for Albq Area Gardens. Margo Murdock, Master Gardener.

**Apr 4** Invasive Plant Control Project. Frances Robertson and Nancy Hudson, Leaders. [E]

**Apr 5** Field Forum. Bear Canyon. Frances Robertson, Leader. [C]

**Apr 10** Field Forum. Pine Flats. Bill Dodson, Leader. [A]

**Apr 17** Field Forum. Las Huertas Creek. Pam McBride, Leader. [D]

**Apr 18** \*\*Field Trip. Foothills around Placitas. Nancy Hudson (896-0971), Leader. 9:00 a.m. [E] Carpoolers meet at [D] at 8:15 a.m.

**Apr 24–26** \*\*Overnight Field Trip. Sumner Lake State Park. Parobotanist Plant Collecting Trip. Specimens will go to UNM Herbarium. Participants must contact Don Heinze by 4/1. Gather at park hdqtrs, W side of lake, 9:00 a.m., 4/25. Botanical knowledge not necessary.

**May 1** Field Forum. Albuquerque Volcanoes. Gary Runyan (205-9953) and George Miller, Leaders. [B]

**May 2** Invasive Plant Control Project. Frances Robertson and Nancy Hudson, Leaders. [E]

**May 6** Meeting. New Mexico Rare Plants: What They Are and Where to Find Them. A Guide to the New Mexico Rare Plant Website. Charlie McDonald.

**May 8–10** Overnight Field Trip. Desert Hanging Gardens and Bennett Mtn near White Sands. Meet WSMR ecologist Dave Anderson in the pullout on top of San Augustin Pass 8:00 a.m. 5/9. Participants must sign up by contacting Pam McBride by 3/31. High-clearance vehicle required.

**May 15** Field Forum. Tecolote Peak. Jeanette Buffet, Leader. [A]

**May 16** \*\*Field Trip. Red Dot Trail Near White Rock. Irene Wanner, Leader. 8:00 a.m. [D]

**May 22** Field Forum. Placitas Open Space. Lolly Jones, Leader. Meet 9:15 a.m. at [E]. Carpoolers meet 8:30 at [D].

**May 29** Field Forum. Pino Canyon. Tom Stewart, Leader. [C]

**Jun 3** Meeting. Environmental Forum. Topics TBA.

**Jun 7** Field Forum. Bear Canyon. Frances Robertson, Leader. [C]

**Jun 12** Field Forum. Three Gun Spring Trail. Jim McGrath, Leader. [A]

**Jun 13** Field Trip. Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area just north of Belen. Don Heinze, Leader. Meet Don at 9:00 a.m. in Los Lunas at [H]. Carpoolers meet at 8:15 a.m. at [G].

**Jun 19** Field Forum. Las Huertas Creek. Pam McBride, Leader. [D]

**Jun 26** Field Forum. Tecolote Peak. Jeanette Buffet, Leader. [A]

### El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. All society events are free unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are always welcome. Info: 240-7414, 833-7637, 383-3006.

**Apr 9** Program. FloraFest Preview. Wynn Anderson, Botanical Curator for the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at the UTEP Centennial Museum.

**Apr 18** Field Trip. Orogrande, NM. Peter Beste, Leader. High-clearance vehicles advised. Details on meeting location TBA. 240-7414, 833-7637, 383-3006 for information.

**Apr 25–26** FloraFest 2009. Native plant sale and educational lecture. Sale from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., patio area btwn Centennial Museum and Undergraduate Learning Center on Wiggins Rd. Full list of plants available by 4/19 at [www.museum.utep.edu](http://www.museum.utep.edu).

**May 14** Program. Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home: its history, mission, and its xeric landscaping project. Jim Thomas, Sr. Administrator of Development and Activities.

**Jun 11** Program. Hummingbirds and Butterflies Outside My Window! Developing a garden that attracts them. Cheryl Garing, local horticulturist, designer of hummingbird/butterfly garden at Children's Home.

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs and hikes are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre the morning of the hike to arrange carpooling. Participants must sign a 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. Destinations may be changed due to weather.

**Apr 17** Program. Thinking Like a Plant. How to select, plant, and care for the living things in the yard. Leith Young, WNMU Groundskeeper.

**Apr 19** Hike. Burro Cienega, approx. 32 miles from Silver City along Separ Rd. Expect to see plants not generally found much farther north, such as Palmer's Agave and *Rhamnus tomentella*.

**May 17** Hike. Little Bear Mtn, SW of Bear Mtn. An interesting example of variable plant/soil-type relationships, possibly blooming Cliff Fendlerbush.

**Jun 13** Gila NPS Annual Picnic. Gomez Peak picnic pavilion off Little Walnut Rd. Details will follow.

**Jun 21** Hike. Myers Canyon, N of old Georgetown site, old, a historical mining area.

### Las Cruces

Meetings and programs are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. 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 last into the afternoon. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; nonmembers always welcome. Contacts: Ray Bowers, 575/541-1877; Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Al Krueger, 575/532-1036.

**Apr 8** Meeting. The Camino Real. Dan Scurlock.

**Apr 11** Walk. Camino Real north of Las Cruces. Dan Scurlock, Leader. Meet at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy 70, 8:00 a.m.

**May 13** Talk. Food production and sustainability. Connie Falk, NMSU Ag Econ/Ag Business Dept.

**May 16** Walk. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Ray Bowers, Leader. 8:00 a.m.

**Jun 10** Talk. Permian and Cretaceous fossil plants in southern NM. Greg Mack, NMSU Geology Dept.

**Jun 13** Field Trip to the Zuhl Museum to view fossil plants. 8:00 a.m.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Eric Metzler, metzler@msu.edu, 575/443-6250; or William Herndon, laluzlobo@gmail.com, 575/437-2555. More info available by the beginning of each month.

**Apr 11** Hike. Ridge in Fresnal Canyon ("Steep Hill"). Meet in empty lot at SE corner N. Florida and Hwy 82, 8:30 a.m.

**Apr 18** Annual Plant and Book Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., corner of Oregon and 10<sup>th</sup> Street, across from Library. Anyone will-

ing to help please contact Helgi Osterreich, 575/585-3315, hkasak@netmdc.com.

**Apr 25** Earth Day at Alamogordo Zoo. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have a booth with information, plants, and books. Anyone willing to help please contact Helgi Osterreich, 575/585-3315, hkasak@netmdc.com.

**May 23** Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range. Dave Anderson, Leader. Participants must sign up beforehand. More info will be sent out. Contact John Stockert, 575/585-2546, jwstockert@tularosa.net.

**Jun 13** Field Trip. Join Las Cruces chapter in the Sacramento Mtns. More info to come. Possible cancellation due to drought.

**Jun 27** Hike. Enchanted Path in Sacramento Mtns. Meet in empty lot at SE corner of N. Florida and Hwy 82, 8 a.m. Possible cancellation due to drought.

### San Juan (Farmington)

Meetings are third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at San Juan Community College. For more info, contact Les Lundquist at 505/334-8634 or Dalunk54@yahoo.com.

### Santa Fe

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

### Taos

Meetings are second Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Kit Carson Cooperative. For more information on field trips and other activities, contact David Witt, 575/758-0619, or davidwitt@cybermesa.com. Check Web link for this chapter to get updates. Chapter members will get e-mail or USPS mail notification.

**Apr 8** Slide presentation. "Butterfly Landscapes in the Taos Country." Steve Cary, chief naturalist for NM State Parks.

**May 13** Talk. "Ute Mountain." How soils and elevation determine the plant communities in this unique island ecosystem. Linus Meyer, BLM rangeland mgmt specialist.

**Jun 10** Talk. "Wild Medicinal Plants of Taos." Robert Hawley, medicinal herbalist and owner of Taos Herbs.

June 22–28 is National Pollinator Week

[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

## Harbingers of Spring: Little Wildflowers That Plan Ahead

by Bob Merkel, *Bosque del Apache Friends Secretary*

In our part of the Chihuahuan desert, where Bosque del Apache is located, the average annual rainfall is around eight or nine inches. In any given year, however, the timing and amount of precipitation are notoriously unpredictable. Even our "summer monsoon" is not guaranteed.

There are several annual wildflowers which germinate in the fall here. Sometimes . . . *if* there's been enough summer rain. They are adapted to hang on through the winter as

small rosettes of leaves. If all goes well, and the weather gods are helpful, they start to flower soon after the desert warms in the spring. Some appear in town growing out of gaps in pavement or between a curb and pavement. Others grow in or near arroyos, often in the shelter of shrubs.

Here are seven examples spotted during this past winter either along the Canyon Trail in Bosque del Apache or elsewhere in the Socorro area. ❖



### Scorpionweed (*Phacelia integrifolia*)

Rosette leaves are green, fairly narrow, with a prominent pattern of lobes. The pink-purple flowers are borne on stalks that bend at the top like a scorpion's tail.



### Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*)

Has very gray-hairy leaves that are coarsely lobed. The showy daisy-type flower heads are yellow, an inch or more in diameter, and sport a double row of ray flowers. Does fine in full sun.



### Spectacle Pod (*Dimorphocarpa wislizeni*)

Leaves are gray and narrow, with small lobes along their length. This mustard grows flower stalks topped with sprays of white flowers, each having 4 petals. Pods have exactly two flat seeds.



### Snapdragon Vine (*Epixiphium wislizeni*)

Triangular green leaves have white markings. Even in winter the beginnings of the vine stalks are apparent. The purplish flowers are irregular . . . like snapdragons!

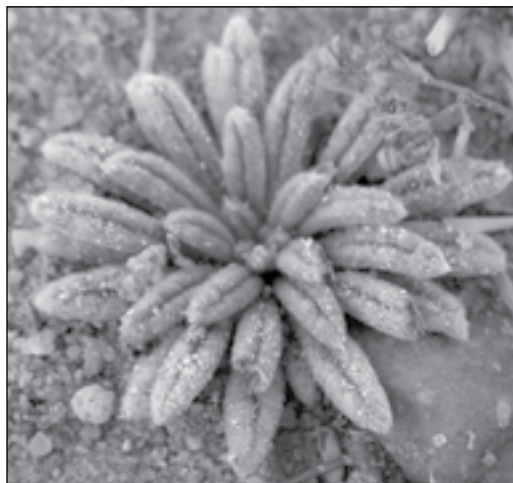
It is with great sorrow that the Otero chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico announces the passing of two of its long-term members.

**Leonard Hendzel, July 7, 1929–October 27, 2008.**

Len worked for the U.S. Forest Service for many years. He moved to the Alamogordo area in 1992, and became a very active member of the NPSNM, helping to plan the 2004 Annual Meeting, and serving as Vice President for several years. He will be sorely missed.

**Joseph L. Hutto, September 12, 1929–February 19, 2009.**

Joe served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years and was a pilot of the F-100 in Korea and the F-105 in Vietnam. After retiring, he moved to Tularosa. He and his wife Nancy were founding members of the Otero chapter of the NPSNM. We thank him and miss him.

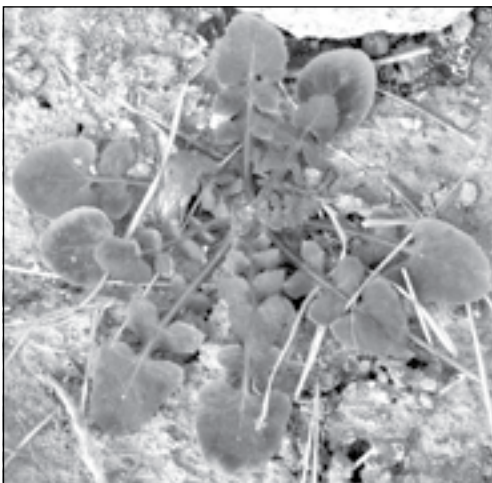


**Hiddenflower (*Cryptantha crassisejala*)**

The small rosette is made up of hairy green leaves that are entire (no lobes). The flowers are tiny and white, borne on short flower stalks. The related Stickseed (*Hackelia floribunda*) has longer leaves and grows much taller, the better to attach its seed capsules to your socks.

**Not pictured: Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)**

The green leaves of this geranium are twice divided and look somewhat like fern leaves. The flowers are rose pink with 5 petals and produce long, straight seed pods that taper to a tip like a heron's bill.



**London Rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*)**

Coarsely lobed bright green leaves (spicy in salads). Small yellow 4-petaled flowers can open (have opened) in January if the weather is warm enough. Seed pods are long and narrow.

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## 2009 STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a separate form for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to NPSNM-Taos Chapter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Note: If you have an e-mail address we do not need your street address) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate NPSNM Chapter you are a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Field Trip** 1<sup>st</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday Field Trip** 1<sup>st</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to become a NPSNM member at the discounted rate of \$15

### Send registration forms and checks to:

NPSNM—Ann Smith, 4008 Sendero Penitente, Taos NM 87571

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