



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010

VOL. XXXV No. 2

### Annual Meeting in Silver City: August 12–15, 2010 Gateway to the Gila

Silver City is known for its small-town charm and its active downtown business district, which includes numerous fine-art galleries and excellent restaurants, all located adjacent to the delightful Big Ditch Park. The Big Ditch was created in the early 1900s when erosion and flooding wiped out Main Street. Businesses then moved a block west and created Bullard Street as the new main drag. In recent decades the ditch area has been transformed into a park with tree-covered walkways and lovely rest areas overlooking the creek and its limestone walls.

Silver City is often called the Gateway to the Gila because of its proximity both to the Gila River and the Gila National Forest, the country's first designated National Wilderness Area. A great place for hiking and birding, the Gila had a profound impact on naturalist Aldo Leopold. Keynote speaker Curt Meine, a biographer of Leopold and a conservation biologist, will explore the continuing evolution of land ethics and biodiversity conservation.

There's an outstanding roster of speakers and field trips lined up for this year's state meeting. In addition, there's a

once-in-a-lifetime, two-day pre-meeting workshop on Botrychium ferns by Donald Farrar and Cindy Johnson-Groh. And a first for state meetings: a photo contest—so pick your best shots and enter!

There's nowhere near enough space in the newsletter for all the information about this year's meeting and events, so check our website postings at [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org) or <http://npsnm.unm.edu>.

#### Photo Contest

As any "real" photographer will tell you, it isn't a photograph until it's printed! So, given the abundance of native plant species in the Land of Enchantment, and all the great photographers in NPSNM, the Gila chapter is introducing the First Annual State Meeting Photo Contest. Now's the time to take your best photos off your computer and enter them in the contest. It should be lots of fun, and of interest to all attendees. Rules and regulations and other contest details can be found on page 3 and also on our website: [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org) or <http://npsnm.unm.edu>. ❖

*See full details on pages 7–10. Registration form on page 11.*

### Inside This Issue

- 2 From the President ❖ 2 NPSNM Election of Officers ❖ 3 2010 Grants Awarded ❖ 3 Annual Meeting Contest and Workshop ❖ 4 Who's Who at NPSNM ❖ 5 Profiles of the Ignored Enemy: Before It's Too Late
- 6 Thanks from the Carter Fund ❖ 7–10 NPSNM 2010 Annual Meeting Program
- 11 Annual Meeting Registration ❖ 12–13 Chapter Activities & Events ❖ 14 Conservation Corner: Aridland Springs
- 15 Membership ❖ 16 NPSNM Ballot—Election of Officers 2010

## From the President

by Tom Antonio

A grateful thanks to everyone who responded to our recent annual appeal letter. Over \$5,000 was contributed to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. These funds were placed into the Carter Fund and invested so that eventually the interest from this fund will support our conservation grants. At the recent NPSNM board meeting, held in Sevilleta, the board voted to award seven conservation grants and five herbarium grants, for a total of \$7,500. The NPSNM board views the awarding of grant funds very seriously. To learn more about this year's recipients, please see the article on page 3.

I would like to remind all NPSNM members to please visit our website to renew their memberships and to make contributions to the Society. These transactions are extremely secure and by renewing online you help reduce the costs of mailing renewal reminders. Please visit our beautiful website, which is maintained by Jane Mygatt, for updates, chapter programs, hundreds of plant photographs, educational features, and to purchase the newest plant books.



We have recently had a change in the handling of our book sales: Lisa Alvares is now managing the book sales for the Society. Join me in wishing her success in this very important job and also to thank her for taking on this challenging volunteer position. I would also like to express the Society's appreciation to Lisa

Johnston, who graciously managed our book sales for over twenty years. She performed a remarkable job for the Society and deserves our thanks for starting the book-selling program, maintaining it, and obtaining the latest plant books and providing them to our members at very reasonable costs. Words are inadequate to express the admiration the Native Plant Society has for the years of dedicated work that Lisa Johnston has given. It is the efforts of volunteers such as her that make our society such a strong voice for New Mexico's plants.

Finally, I want to thank all who worked on getting a new printer for the newsletter. We hope you enjoy our improved print quality. We believe it is another step toward helping us reach a wider and more supportive audience. ❖

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico Election of Officers

The election for officers of the Society takes place May 1–June 30, 2010. Results will be announced August 12 at the Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the

annual state meeting. The two-year terms begin then. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has nominated these candidates:

**President: Thomas Antonio**

Santa Fe Chapter. Currently President of the Society and Santa Fe Chapter President. Former botany professor at the College of Santa Fe.

**Vice President: Renee West**

Currently Vice President of NPSNM and former Newsletter Editor. Chief biologist at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

**Recording Secretary: Pam McBride**

Albuquerque Chapter. Past president of the Albuquerque Chapter and an NPSNM member for 10 years. A paleoethnobotanist.

**Membership Secretary: Lolly Jones**

Albuquerque Chapter. Currently Membership Secretary. NPSNM member for over 12 years.

**Treasurer: Wynn Anderson**

El Paso Chapter. Former President of the NPSNM and former Chair of the Finance Committee.

*Election ballot on page 16*

## 2010 Grants Awarded at Winter Board Meeting

by Sandra Lynn

At its recent meeting, January 30–31 at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Field Station, the Board of Directors of the NPSNM considered nine grant applications and voted to fund seven of them.

- **The Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District in Belen** received a grant of \$700 for the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area to purchase supplies for and support with drip irrigation a new native plant landscape around its Education Center.
- **Jeremy Klass, a PhD candidate at NMSU in the College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Science**, received \$600 to cover a portion of the experimental costs of his research on “Cross-scale Interactions and the Role of Plant/Soil Biofeedback Associated with Desertification of Arid Grassland Ecosystems.”
- **The Asombro Institute for Science Education in Las Cruces** received \$800 to fund the development and pilot testing of two schoolyard activities on biodiversity and global climate change.
- The **Upper Gila Watershed Alliance in Gila** received the largest grant, \$1000, for contracting GIS services to analyze the road system of the Gila National Forest in an effort to limit the motorized access to the forest.

- **Drs. Kenneth Heil of the San Juan College Herbarium in Farmington and Steve O’Kane of the Grant Herbarium at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls** received \$600 toward field work as a necessary part of the goal of producing a new Flora of New Mexico.
- **James P. Riser II, a PhD candidate at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington**, received \$600 to assist with travel costs for field work in New Mexico on the project “Species Boundaries and Phylogeography of the Dwarf Milkweed Group Population in New Mexico.”
- The **Placitas Community Library in Placitas** received \$700 toward landscaping with native plants.

In addition to the above grants awarded, five herbaria in New Mexico and El Paso will receive awards of \$500 apiece to support their work. The five are the NMSU Herbarium in Las Cruces, the UNM Herbarium in Albuquerque, Western New Mexico University Herbarium in Silver City, the UTEP Herbarium in El Paso, and the San Juan College Herbarium in Farmington.

Individuals and organizations interested in applying for grants for 2011 can find information and application forms on the website, <http://npsnm.unm.edu>. ❖

## Annual Meeting Contest and Workshop

See *Annual Meeting program* on pages 7–10. Many more details can be found at [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org).

### 1st Annual NPSNM Photo Contest

**Theme:** Native Plants of New Mexico

#### Rules and Regulations

- Entry fee of \$10 for up to three photos
- Individually mounted photos to be submitted at time of conference registration
- Each print (5×5 to 11×14) to be mounted on 16×20 white matte board

#### Prizes

- 1st Place: 50% of entry-fee receipts
- 2nd Place: 30% of entry-fee receipts
- 3rd Place: 20% of entry-fee receipts

Winning photos will be announced at the Saturday night banquet. With permission from the photographers, winning photos will be posted on the Gila chapter website.

**Note:** Everyone interested in entering the contest should notify Phoebe Lawrence ([clayfulhands@yahoo.com](mailto:clayfulhands@yahoo.com)) by August 1. Please include your name, contact information, and the number of photographs that you wish to enter. This will help ensure that we have sufficient display space for all your great photos.

### Pre-meeting Botrychium Workshop

This workshop will introduce the peculiarities of the fern genus *Botrychium*, followed by discussions of their ecology, evolution, and identification. Hands-on experience with identification will be provided through use of live plants and plant silhouettes. Participants will be guided through a key especially designed for species of the southern Rocky Mountains. A field trip will introduce methods of search for these often tiny plants, and techniques for marking and monitoring populations. Participants will receive a booklet containing the information presented. ❖

### The Newsletter of the NPSNM

April–June 2010. Vol. 35 No. 2. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, 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, 2010.** Articles and high-resolution artwork are enthusiastically welcomed and can be submitted to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at [sarita505@yahoo.com](mailto:sarita505@yahoo.com).

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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## PROFILES OF THE IGNORED ENEMY

### Before It's Too Late

by Donald H. Heinze, NPSNM representative to the state Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Here are two letters to the editor of the *Albuquerque Journal*, dated June 10, 2025:

Dear Editor: I have just read in your paper that the New Mexico state legislature has approved a bill that appropriates \$50,000 for herbicide spraying of something called Ravenna grass. This is an outrage! Why must they squander an already overtaxed people's money to control grass? Don't you control grass with a lawn mower? Believe me, I will remember this travesty come election time.

Sincerely yours, Cary Curmudgeon

Dear Sirs: I was shocked to read that the New Mexico state legislators have appropriated money to spray herbicide on some kind of grass! Don't they know herbicides are toxic? Don't they know that companies that make herbicides are evil? And they plan to spend \$50,000 on this foolishness! That could buy 100 computers for schools! Or 2,500 textbooks! This is sacrificing the future in more ways than one!

Yours truly, Edna Environmentalist

So you think that such letters will never be written? Think again. Every noxious weed was once not considered a problem. Ravenna grass (*Saccharum ravennae* [L.] Murray), the subject culprit, was once sold in nurseries as "hardy Pampas grass." Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.) was sold for wind breaks. Others, like St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.), are still sold as medicinal herbs.

Right now we have a golden opportunity to stop Ravenna grass. But we must act now, **before it's too late**. This large, tussock-forming perennial grass is spreading rapidly in New Mexico. Obviously, it likes bosques. Kelly Allred, New Mexico's foremost authority on grasses, says it escaped from the Albuquerque Zoo "with the aid of rebellious elephants and giraffes." Now it has spread both north and south of Albuquerque in the Rio Grande Bosque and has reached that woodland in Los Lunas. In all likelihood it will go all the way to Las Cruces. But Doña Ana County does not have to wait for the Albuquerque infection to get to it. Ravenna grass is already there! It also is in the Bitter Lakes Wildlife Refuge along the Pecos River in Chaves County. The source of the latter two infections is not known, at least to me.

Like all noxious weeds, Ravenna grass is very aggressive and spreads quickly. It displaces native bosque vegetation such as cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* S. Watson) and willow (*Salix exigua* Nutt. and *S. gooddingii* Ball). It does not have the structure to provide cover and nesting for birds and

nothing is known to eat it, except perhaps elephants and giraffes. We have been fresh out of elephants for at least 12,000 years, and I don't think that we ever had any giraffes!

It is very easy to spot Ravenna grass. In New Mexico, it is only known in the bosques, but it could be in other areas with moist soil. Up to four meters tall, it looks much like Pampas grass, but its plumes are not as showy. The best way to differentiate the two, however, is by their leaf margins. Ravenna's edges are smooth, while its South American cousin has serrated edges that can cause a painful wound. Giant reed (*Arundo donax* L.), the only other grass that Ravenna grass can be confused with, forms a rhizomatous colony while the other two large grasses form tussocks with no rhizomes. Giant reed is unmistakable because of its large, widely spaced, alternate stem leaves. The other two big grasses have only basal leaves.

What can be done about Ravenna grass? I can find no research data about control of this relatively new problem. We cannot expect a biological control in the foreseeable future. Grasses such as wheat and rice are the world's most important foodstuffs. All grasses are genetically close, so there is an unacceptably large danger of a biological control spreading to these crops. Burning may kill Ravenna, but fire usually does not kill a perennial grass. In fact, it might stimulate it! Powerful herbicides like Glyphosate will probably kill it, but we do not know the necessary dosage nor when to apply it.

At any rate, chemicals are precisely what we want to avoid. That leaves mechanical control. We, as individuals, can remove the heads before seeds ripen. Thus we hit it in its Achilles heel, the fact that seed is its only means of reproduction. This of course, will not kill it, but it will keep it from spreading. Young plants can be removed with a shovel, but care must be taken to get all the roots. We do not know how much root must be removed before residual roots can no longer sprout, but we should not take chances. Established tussocks require big equipment such as a backhoe. This of course will cause significant surface disturbance, but at present is the only option. It is far better to find and remove it before large tussocks are formed. Monitoring is always necessary to determine if follow-up treatment is needed. Big equipment work must be followed with revegetation with desirable vegetation, or we will probably get an assortment of unwanted plants replacing the Ravenna. Remember the cliché, "nature abhors a vacuum."

But **now** is the time to act—before it's too late! ❖

## Thanks from the Carter Fund

The following is a list of contributors to the Carter Conservation Fund and covers contributions received February 2009 through January 2010. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico and Jack and Martha Carter thank you for your

generous response to the year-end appeal. If your name is missing or if you need another receipt for tax records, please contact the Carters at 575/388-9221 or PO Box 1244, Silver City, NM 88062.

Carol Alfs  
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Wynn & Kym Anderson  
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Tom Antonio  
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Judith Appenzeller  
William & Diane Armstrong  
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Jodie Brooks  
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**Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
2010 Annual Meeting**

# Gateway *to the* Gila

Thursday,  
August 12  
*to*  
Sunday,  
August 15



Western  
New  
Mexico  
University  
Silver City

**Meeting Location:** The meeting headquarters will be the Global Resource Center on the campus of Western New Mexico University.

**Accommodations:** The Gila Native Plant Society has chosen this complex, with the three motels conveniently located adjacent to each other, at 1040, 1060, and 1120 Highway 180 East, for guest accommodations. For reservations at the Super 8, call 575/388-1498, or go to [www.Super8.com](http://www.Super8.com). The rate is \$59.99 plus tax. This includes a continental breakfast. For reservations at the Comfort Inn, call 575/534-0778, or go to [www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nmOI6](http://www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nmOI6). The rate is \$74.99 plus tax. This includes a continental breakfast. For reservations at the newly remodeled EconoLodge, call 575/534-1111, or go to [www.econolodgesilvercity.com](http://www.econolodgesilvercity.com). The rate is \$79.99 plus tax. This includes a full breakfast. ❖ A list of other accommodations may be obtained from the Silver City–Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 575/538-3785 or go to [www.silvercity.org](http://www.silvercity.org). Please make your reservations as soon as possible and mention the Native Plant Society of New Mexico annual meeting for the above rates.

**Registration:** See page 11 of this newsletter for registration form.

## 2010 Annual Meeting Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

### Western New Mexico University, Silver City, New Mexico

#### Wednesday August 11

9:00 am–3:00 pm Pre-meeting Workshop: Botrychium—Don Farrar and Cindy Johnson

#### Thursday August 12

8:00 am–5:00 pm Pre-meeting Workshop: Botrychium (*continued*)

1:30–5:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting

3:00–6:00 pm Registration

4:00–5:00 pm Open Space Plant Walk—Deming Gustafson. Difficulty: Easy–Moderate

3:00–6:00 pm Submit photos for photo contest

#### Friday August 13 Morning Session

7:30–8:00 am Submit Photos for Photo Contest

7:30 am–3:00 pm Registration

8:00 am–4:00 pm Book sales and silent auction

8:30–9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00–9:50 am *Room A:* The Carbon Ranch: Fighting Climate Change through Food and Stewardship—Courtney White

10:00–10:50 am *Room A:* Chloridoid Grasses of NM: Evolution and Classification—J. Travis Columbus

*Room B:* The Flora of the Rocky Mountains—Ron Hartman

11:00–11:50 am *Room A:* Landscape of Enchantment—David Cristiani

*Room B:* Developing Mesquite & Nipa as New Global Arid-Lands Crops—Richard Felger

12:00–1:30 pm Lunch at WNMU cafeteria (included in registration)

#### Friday August 13 Afternoon Session

1:00–5:00 pm View photos entered in the photo contest and bid on items in the silent auction

1:30–2:30 pm *Room A:* Recent Research on Fern Gametophytes—Don Farrar

2:30–3:20 pm *Room A:* The Flora of Lake Roberts—Kelly Kindscher

*Room B:* Sedge Identification Workshop—William Norris and Danielle Walkup (Limit: 30)

3:30–4:30 pm *Room A:* The Vascular Flora of the Gila National Forest: A Database—Jack Carter and Charles Huff

5:30 pm Cocktail Reception—Little Walnut Picnic Shelter

#### Saturday August 14 Morning Sessions—Concurrent Field Trips and Workshops

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up for field trips and workshops at registration. Please be sure to be prepared for your field trips. Bring water, food, sun screen, hat, hiking boots, etc. as needed. Saturday field trips will leave precisely on time!

8:00 am–Noon View photos and bid on items in the silent auction

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch at WNMU cafeteria (included in registration)

#### 1. Cacti

This workshop/seminar will look at the many different types of cacti, both native and non-native. The cultivation and uses will be discussed as well as the botanical and ecological importance of these fascinating plants. **Location:** Silver City **Time:** 8:00am–noon **Limit:** 14 participants **Facilitator:** Mark Cantrell

#### 2. Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium

Learn the importance of an herbarium, who uses it, and why. Find out how specimens are labeled and who identifies them, as well as how plants are collected and prepared for mounting. There will be a mounting demonstration. **Location:** WNMU **Time:** 9:00–11:00am **Limit:** 15 participants **Facilitators:** Jack Carter and Deming Gustafson



### 3. Permaculture and Native Plants

This workshop/seminar will be a brief introduction to permaculture, water harvesting, and how native plants fit in the landscape. The seminar will end with an optional visit to the presenters' yard. **Location:** WNMU **Time:** 8:00am–noon **Limit:** 14 participants **Facilitators:** Dianna Wynn and Terry Timme

### 4. Photography Workshop

Learn to get close using plus lenses, extension tubes, macro lenses; what is affordable and best for you. Explore lighting techniques and other ways to capture the beauty and intricacies of the often unseen natural world. **Location:** WNMU **Time:** 9:00–11:00am **Level:** SLR or DSLR camera users **Limit:** 15 participants **Facilitator:** Elroy Limmer

### 5. Pine Needle Basket Workshop

Pine needles may be made into many beautiful works of art. Learn how to obtain, prepare, and use pine needles to make baskets and other objects. Participants will complete a small basket. **Location:** WNMU **Time:** 8:00am–noon **Level:** Beginner **Limit:** 10 participants **Facilitator:** Judy Allen

### 6. Boston Hill

This mixed-grassland and high-desert habitat provides fabulous views of Silver City as well as representative plant species. The area also includes more than a half-dozen former mining sites. **Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 5,980–6,380' **Distance:** 2 miles **Location:** Silver City **Time:** 9:00–11:30am **Leader:** Janet Gilchrist

### 7. C-Bar Ranch Road

We'll walk through Chihuahuan montane woodland in the Burros on a new segment of the Continental Divide Trail. We'll see a diverse sampling of plants characteristic of the Chihuahuan Desert, as well as a shaggy-barked alligator juniper. **Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 5,900–6,300' **Distance:** 3 miles **Location:** 30 mi. S of Silver City **Time:** 8:00–11:45am **Leader:** Richard Felger

### 8. Cherry Creek Birds

We'll take an easy walk through the riparian woodlands at Cherry Creek Campground along a perennial mountain stream in the Gila National Forest. Expect to see several species of resident birds, including the red-faced warbler and ash-throated flycatcher, as well as the plants that support them. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 6,650–6,800' **Distance:** 2 miles **Location:** 15 mi. N of Silver on Hwy 15 **Time:** 7:30–11:45am **Leader:** Jerry Bird

### 9. Garden Tour

The Silva Creek Botanical Gardens is a work in progress where species of Grant County–area native plants are grown and studied. We'll also visit two homes in the area that use natives as landscaping mainstays. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Location:** Silver City **Time:** 8:30–11:45am **Leader:** Charles Holmes

### 10. Lake Roberts

Lake Roberts lies nestled among the ponderosa pines within the boundaries of the Gila National Forest, just south of the Gila Wilderness boundary. There are 400 species within ¼ mile of the lake. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 6,100–6,130' **Distance:** 1 mile **Location:** 1 hr. N of Silver **Time:** 7:30am–noon **Leader:** Kelly Kindscher

### 11. Signal Peak

Very little walking will be required of participants during this field trip as we visit the environs of the Continental Divide Trail at higher elevations. While driving to the trailhead we will go through several different zones. We'll see dozens of plants characteristic of upper-elevation mixed coniferous forests. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 7,000–8,900' **Distance:** 1 mile **Location:** 17 mi. N of Silver on Hwy 15 **Time:** 8:00–11:45am

**Leaders:** Dale Zimmerman and William Norris

### 12. WNMU Museum Mimbres Pottery Exhibit

We'll visit the WNMU Museum, which houses one of the world's most complete and comprehensive collections of Mimbres pottery, basketry, and artifacts, in the Eisele Collection. These stunning examples of ancient pottery reveal a glimpse of the cultural and artistic life of the area as it was more than 800 years ago. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Location:** WNMU **Time:** 10:00am–noon **Leaders:** Cynthia Bettison and Philip Cave

*continued next page*

Please go to [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org) for lots of additional information!

## Saturday August 14 Afternoon Sessions

- 12:30–3:00 pm Book sales and final bids in silent auction
- 1:30–2:20 pm *Room A:* Joint Session: Dye Lichens of New Mexico—Glenna Dean
- 2:30–3:30 pm *Room A:* Mitigation/Salvation of Moonworts—Cindy Johnson-Groh  
*Room B:* People, Fire and Climate in Southwestern Landscapes—Tom Swetnam
- 3:30–4:20 pm *Room A:* Joint Session: The Flora of the Florida Mountains of Luna County—Gene Jercinovic
- 4:40 pm Pick up silent auction items and submitted photos
- 6:00 pm Banquet at Copper Creek Ranch: Cowboy Dinner. *Keynote Speaker:* Curt Meine, Aldo Leopold biographer and conservation biologist. He will speak about New Mexico's deep influence on the continuing evolution of land ethics and biodiversity conservation. Musical entertainment will follow.

## Sunday, August 15 Field Trips (reminder: pick up contest photos 7–9 a.m. at GRC)

Sunday field trips will all leave Silver City at 8:00 a.m. You will receive further information later.

### 13. Aspen Grove, Signal Peak Road

Aspen Grove is a mountain meadow along the road toward the 9,001-foot summit of Signal Peak. Drivers will make several stops to view a wide variety of plants at various elevations. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 7,000–8,900' **Distance:** ¼ mile **Location:** 6 mi. N of Pinos Altos on Hwy 15 **Leader:** Russ Kleinman

### 14. Catwalk, White Water Creek

A grove of Arizona sycamore trees greets visitors in this riparian area of the Mogollons. The original catwalk was built in 1893 upon the pipeline that was suspended high above boulders of the canyon bottom to avoid washouts. **Difficulty:** Easy/moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 5,100–5,500' **Distance:** 2.2 miles (or ½ mile) **Location:** Hwy 180 NW of Silver City near Glenwood **Leaders:** Jack Carter, Donna Stevens, Deming Gustafson

### 15. City of Rocks State Park

Participants will wander among the monoliths of this geological monument to view the plants in their unique location; they were recently cataloged in a floristic study. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 5,100–5,150' **Distance:** 1 mile **Location:** 45 min. SE of Silver City near Hwy 180 **Leaders:** William Norris and Javier Kirker

### 16. Mattock's Site

In the Mimbres Valley, the Mattock's site is being developed by the Silver City Museum Society. The site contains a native plant walk, Mimbreno site, and adobe ranch buildings. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 6,000–6,100' **Distance:** ½ mile **Location:** 4 mi. NW of Hwy 152/Hwy 35 **Leaders:** Marilyn Markel and Charles Holmes

### 17. Mineral Creek and Cooney's Tomb

After a brief stop at Cooney's Tomb, participants will hike along Mineral Creek and Cooney Canyon to the old mining town site of Cooney in the Mogollon Mountains. **Difficulty:** Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 5,500–6,000' **Distance:** 4 miles **Location:** 35 mi. NW of Silver City off Hwy 180 **Leaders:** Wayne Buckner and Spike Flanders

### 18. Pony Hills

The rocky outcrop of Pony Hills rises above the Chihuahuan Desert grassland-ecotone where participants will view both plants and petroglyphs. If time permits, we may look for the night-blooming cereus at a nearby location. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 4,800–4,950' **Distance:** 1 mile **Location:** 16 mi. NE of Deming on Hwy 180 and Hwy 25 **Leader:** Richard Felger

### 19. Rabb Park

Following the riparian area formed by Rabb and Girty springs, this field trip rises and falls along bedrock in the Gila National Forest on trail 747. **Difficulty:** Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 6,600–7,200' **Distance:** 7 miles **Location:** 45 min. NE of Silver City on Hwy 152 **Leaders:** Lee Stockman and Janet Gilchrist

### 20. Railroad Canyon

Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests are dissected by many stream crossings along the Railroad Canyon field trip, which will turn back short of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. **Difficulty:** Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 7,000–9,000' **Distance:** 8 miles **Location:** 55 min. NE of Silver on Hwy 152 **Leader:** Kelly Kindscher

### 21. Spring Canyon

One of the few mountain areas of Luna County, the Floridas are home to some striking and unusual Chihuahuan Desert plants. Mid-August is an excellent time to see them. **Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate **Limit:** 14 participants **Elevation:** 4,800–6,200' **Distance:** 2 miles **Location:** Rockhound State Park, 10 mi. SE of Deming **Leader:** Gene Jercinovic

### 2010 STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a separate form for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to GNPS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*Register early; space is limited. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.*

#### Field Trips/Workshops:

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

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

#### Speakers (Please indicate A or B):

**Friday** 9:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_

1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 3:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday** 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 2:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 3:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Pre-meeting Botrychium Workshop	\$75 _____	
	Meeting (includes 2 lunches, banquet, & open-bar cocktail party)	\$90 _____	<b>TOTAL</b> _____

**Send registration forms and checks to:** GNPS, PO Box 457, Silver City, NM 88062

Questions or concerns? Please contact Elroy Limmer at 575/538-5513 or elroy.limmer@gmail.com

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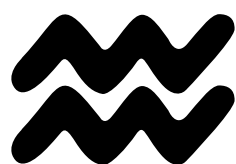
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## Chapter Activities & Events

**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;

### Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info contact Frances Robertson, [frobertson45@comcast.net](mailto:frobertson45@comcast.net), 505-828-4775, or Jim McGrath, [sedges@swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com), 286-8745. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

**Apr 7** Meeting. Butterfly Landscapes of the Albuquerque Area. Steve Cary, Chief Naturalist of NM State Parks and author of *Butterfly Landscapes of New Mexico*.

**Apr 10** Field Trip. Woody Minnich's Greenhouse and Parker Greenhouse in Edgewood. (Tentative.) Jim McGrath, leader. Carpoolers meet at [A] to leave by 9:15 a.m. You may wish to pack a lunch.

**Apr 17** Field Trip. Searching for Sandia Hairstreaks. Steve Cary, leader. La Cueva Picnic Area in the Sandia foothills. Meet 10:30 a.m. at intersection of Hwy 556 (Tramway Rd.) and FR 333; carpoolers meet 10:00 a.m. at [C]. Bring lunch.

**May 1** Field Trip. Ceja Pelon Hike. Michael Richie, leader. Visit one of the largest concentrations of large petrified logs in the SW. All-day trip; bring lunch. Two-hr. drive to trailhead near Cuba, NM; high clearance needed for last 2 miles. Meet 8:00 a.m. at [G]. Contact Michael Richie, 255-1016 or [mrichie@comcast.net](mailto:mrichie@comcast.net), to meet tour in Cuba or Bernalillo.

**May 5** Meeting. San Juan Basin Badlands Nat'l Monument: An Idea Whose Time Has Come. Michael Richie, science teacher, outdoor writer/photographer, badlands activist.

**May 8** Field Trip. Noxious Weeds in the Rio Grande Bosque at Los Lunas. Don Heinze, leader. Meet Don 9:00 a.m. at [H]; carpoolers meet 8:00 a.m. at [B]. Mosquito repellent recommended.

**May 14** Field Forum. Placitas Open Space. Lolly Jones, leader. Meet 9:15 a.m. at [E]; carpoolers meet 8:30 a.m. at [D].

**May 21** Field Forum. Albuquerque Volcanoes. Gary Runyan (205-9953), leader. Meet at [B].

**Jun 2** Meeting. Albuquerque: Grassland or Gravelscape. George Radnovich, ASLA, president of Sites Southwest, discusses the landscape "look" of Albuquerque.

**Jun 19** Field Trip. Invasive Plant Removal—Valles Caldera National Preserve. Virginia Burris, leader. Details TBA.

**Jun 27** Field Forum. Las Huertas Creek. Pam McBride, leader. Meet at [A].

then select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground.

### El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. All society events are free unless otherwise noted. Nonmembers are always welcome. Info: [elpasovlm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elpasovlm@sbcglobal.net) or [jimhastings@elp.rr.com](mailto:jimhastings@elp.rr.com), or call 915/240-7414.

**Apr 8** Talk. Florafest Preview. Wynn Anderson and John White of UTEP's Chihuahuan Desert Gardens will preview plants to be featured at the Gardens' annual native plant sale April 23–24.

**May 13** Talk. Cactus 101: Identifying West Texas Cacti. Ad Konings, author and researcher.

**Jun 20** Talk. Texas Clean Rivers. Elizabeth Verdecchia, program manager for the Rio Grande Basin Texas Clean Rivers Program.

### 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. Activity updates posted on [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org).

**Apr 11** Hike. Wildflower tour of the Floridas, Rockhound State Park. Gene and Betty Jercinovic, leaders.

**Apr 16** Program. Insect/Plant Coevolution in the Southwest: Mutualist Symbioses and Evolutionary Arms Races. Dr. Manda Jost, Dept. of Natural Sciences, WNMU.

**May 16** Hike. Boston Hill—investigation of 1½-year-old wildfire scar. Parking limited; please carpool from WNMU.

**Jun 20** Hike. Upper Meadow Creek.

### 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: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Al Krueger, 575/532-1036.

**Apr 14** Talk. Plants of the bootheel region. Greg Magee, naturalist.

**Apr 17** Walk. Peloncillo Mountains. Greg Magee, leader. 7:00 a.m. Contact Carolyn Gressitt, 523-8413, by 4/9 to make arrangements.

**Apr 17** Sign-up deadline for May WSMR field trip.

**May 12** Talk. Black grama restoration at Otero Mesa. Lori Kae Schwab, NMSU research assistant.

**May 15** Walk. Texas Canyon, WSMR. Dave Anderson, leader. Prior sign-up required. Meet at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy 70, 8:00 a.m.

**Jun 9** Talk. TBA.

**Jun 12** Walk. Native herbs at Dripping Springs. Andy Stevenson, herbalist, leader. Meet at east end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner University and Telshor, 8:00 a.m.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact William Herndon, [laluzlobo@gmail.com](mailto:laluzlobo@gmail.com), 575/437-2555, or Helgi Osterreich, [hkasak@netmdc.com](mailto:hkasak@netmdc.com), 575/585-3315. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

**Apr 17** Plant Sale, 10th Street and Oregon in Alamogordo, 7:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Call Helgi to volunteer, please.

**Apr 24** Earth Day at the Alamogordo Zoo, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Call Helgi to volunteer. Time slots 9–12, 12–2, 2–4.

**May 1** Field trip. White Sands Missile Range. Dave Anderson, leader. Contact John Stockert, 585-2546, [jwstockert@tularosa.net](mailto:jwstockert@tularosa.net). More info will be sent to chapter members.

**Jun 5** Hike. Switchback Trail. Moderate difficulty, 4.5 miles. Bring water and lunch, wear sturdy shoes. Meet 8:30 a.m. corner N. Florida/Hwy. 82.

### 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](mailto:Dalunk54@yahoo.com).

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the meeting room of the REI store, 500 Market Ave. For more information, contact Tom Antonio, [tom@thomasantonio.org](mailto:tom@thomasantonio.org), 505/690-5105; or Carol Johnson, [gcjohnson@comcast.net](mailto:gcjohnson@comcast.net), 505/466-1303.

**Apr 22** Talk. Southwestern Cienegas—Rare Habitats for Endangered Wetland Plants. Robert Sivinski, botanist for the NM Forestry Division.

**May 19** Talk. NM Native Plants and Sustainable Design.

It is with great sorrow that the Otero chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico announces the passing of one of its founding members.

**Jean G. Dodd, February 23, 1925–November 30, 2009.** Jean was a resident of Alamogordo since 1951. In 1983, she cofounded, along with Carol Beckett, Nancy Hutto, Bill Mayfield, and Lucille Wilson, the Otero chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Jean served as President for many years, and led many, many wonderful field trips over the years. She also worked with schools and with NMSU-A to educate the public about native plants and conservation, and wrote a regular column in the Alamogordo *Daily News* about native plants and about the activities of the chapter. We thank her and will miss her.

Judith Phillips, author, *New Mexico Gardener's Guide*. Wild Oats Market community room, 1090 St. Francis Dr. (entrance on Cordova Rd.) 6:30 p.m.

**Jun 16** Talk. The Tree: Tales of the Tall and Towering Biology, Architecture and Natural History of the Tree. Thomas Antonio, PhD, botanist and president of the NPSNM.

### Taos

**Important change:** Meetings are first Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Kit Carson Electric Co-op Conference Room, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Check Web link for this chapter to get updates. Chapter members will get e-mail or USPS mail notification.

**Apr 6** Talk. The Basics of Organic Landscaping in Northern NM. Toby Pocock, owner of Taos Nativescapes.

**May 4** Talk. Native Grasses: An Overview. Tony Benson, Taos rancher.

**Jun 1** Talk. The Aspens of the Upper Woodlands in Taos County. Dr. John Ubelaker, SMU biology professor.

**Jun 5** Hike. Italianos Trail, Taos Ski Valley. Dr. John Ubelaker, leader.



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## CONSERVATION CORNER

## Aridland Springs

by Bob Sivinski, NM Forestry Division

Aridland springs and seeps are oasis islands in a vast sea of desert scrub and grassland. Unlike riparian habitats along rivers and creeks or in playas, most spring wetlands do not periodically flood, dry out, or erode and move. They persist in place for millennia with constant flow and wet soils. Fossil pollen in wetland sediment cores taken at the Cuatro Ciénegas springs in Coahuila indicates nearly identical ecological conditions for more than 30,000 years. Such springs can be refugia for relict populations of species that may have been more widespread and common during wetter periods of the Quaternary. In New Mexico, aquatic animals confined to just one or a few aridland springs include the Socorro isopod (*Thermosphaeroma thermophilum*), Noel's amphipod (*Gammarus desperatus*), Chupadera springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis chupaderae*), Pecos assiminea (*Assiminea pecos*), White Sands pupfish (*Cyprinodon Tularosa*), Pecos gambusia (*Gambusia nobilis*), and several other highly imperiled species.

Southwestern botanists are finally realizing that several unique wetland plant species are also confined to aridland spring habitats. Numerous endemic plants in the hanging gardens of cliff-face seeps in the canyons of the Colorado Plateau of Utah and western Colorado are good examples of specialized species occupying very small and rare spring habitats. Yet the ciénega wetlands out in the plains and hills of desert grasslands are even more rare and endangered. Aridland spring ciénegas are climax wetland communities below 6,500 feet in elevation with soils that are perennially wet and often highly alkaline. Ciénegas (a.k.a. "vegas") are wet meadows or marshes dominated by common grasses and rushes such as saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), scratchgrass (*Muhlenbergia asperifolia*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), spike rush (*Eleocharis* spp.), chairmaker's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus americanus*), etc. Native riparian trees or shrubs are usually absent or confined to the drier ciénega margins.

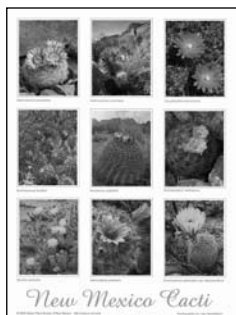
Spring ciénegas are the only places in New Mexico where you can find bizarre and beautiful wetland species such as southwestern sea-lavender (*Limonium limbatum*), prairie gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*), clasping yellowtops (*Flaveria chlorifolia*), Trans-Pecos clapdaisy (*Pseudoclaspia arenaria*), Parish's alkali grass (*Puccinellia parishii*), and seaside arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritimum*). Some very rare plants are also confined to aridland spring ciénegas. For instance, the federally threatened Pecos sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*) occurs only at a few spring ciénegas on the Rio Grande and Rio San Jose of central New Mexico and in the Pecos valley of southeastern New Mexico and west Texas. Wright's marsh

thistle (*Cirsium wrightii*) grows in a few spring ciénegas across southern New Mexico and is listed as endangered by the State of New Mexico. It has been extirpated from Arizona and the status of its populations at a few ciénegas in Chihuahua and Sonora is unknown. Leoncita false-foxtail (*Agalinis calycina*) was found relatively recently at Bitter Lake near Roswell and probably also needs some statutory protection. There is one other U.S. population of this extremely rare ciénega plant at Diamond Y Spring in west Texas, but the status of its two historic populations in Coahuila is unknown.

Ciénega habitats in the arid southwest region are very rare and highly imperiled. The only two rare plant species I feel certain have been completely extirpated from the State of New Mexico inhabit aridland springs. La Playa Springs spine-aster (*Arida blepharophylla*) and the slender spiderflower (*Cleome multicaulis*) were both collected at spring wetlands in southwestern New Mexico during the 1851 survey of the U.S.-Mexico border. Their wetland habitats were subsequently eliminated or highly modified and these species no longer occur in this state. Most rare ciénega plants are also losing ground. Wright's marsh thistle has been eliminated from the large spring that is now the Roswell Country Club swimming pool and also extirpated from the Lake Valley marsh (3 miles north of the ghost town) when that ciénega was strangled by a diversion dike and converted to agriculture. Several other crown jewels of New Mexico's aridland springs have also bit the dust and will not return. The huge San Simon Ciénega on the NM-AZ border is now dead, its aquifer drained by nearby cotton farms and America's love of blue jeans. Apache Tejo Spring, Faywood Cold Spring, Kennecott Warm Spring, and other ancient oasis springs in the desert between Deming and Silver City have been pumped dry by the copper ore mill at Hurley and the growing human demand for this useful metal. Walking out into dry organic dust of a dead ciénega, surrounded by the gray carcasses of huge cottonwood trees, brings a sad and eerie feeling. Most of our still-living desert springs are infested by exotic weeds like salt cedar, abusively grazed by livestock, or their water flows captured in spring boxes and piped off to other places.

NPSNM can help protect our aridland springs by finding them and assessing their condition. If you know of one, get permission (if private land) and go there to inventory the wetland plants. Report any rare species to UNM-Natural Heritage NM and report weed infestations to the landowner or land management agency. Aridland springs are rare ecological gems that will need our perpetual attention. ❖

**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. 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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**Cactus poster:** \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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 (Please check only one)*

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- 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

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

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***Just a reminder*** that we are still accepting items for the ***silent auction*** to be held this August at the annual meeting in Silver City. Anyone with an item to donate can contact the silent auction organizer, C. N. Flanders, at (575) 534-9355 or [cnspikeflanders@gmail.com](mailto:cnspikeflanders@gmail.com).

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## NPSNM BALLOT— Election of Officers 2010

(Candidate information on page 2.)

This ballot may be duplicated for use by any NPSNM member. Only one ballot per member. All ballots must be signed or enclosed in a signed envelope by the voting member. Only one vote for each position is allowed.

**President:** Committee Nominee, Thomas Antonio

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:** Committee Nominee, Renee West

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recording Secretary:** Committee Nominee, Pam McBride

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Secretary:** Committee Nominee, Lolly Jones

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** Committee Nominee, Wynn Anderson

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

*Voter eligibility certification:* I am a current member of NPSNM. Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Ballots must be returned by June 30 to:*  
Sandra Lynn, NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176

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