



# NEWSLETTER

*of the*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2014

VOL. XXXIX NO. 3

## Invitation to NPSNM Members to Make Presentations at the Annual Meeting on August 2

The 2014 Annual Meeting in El Paso will feature fascinating speakers from an unusually wide variety of professional disciplines. But Saturday afternoon has been reserved *just for you*. The Program Subcommittee encourages you to submit a proposal for an illustrated talk *you* would like to present.

### Proposal Guidelines

- Talks should be planned to last no longer than 20 minutes.
- Your topic can be anything related to New Mexico native plants.
- Audiovisual equipment will be set up at the meeting for the use of all presenters. If you will require any special additional equipment, please specify in your proposal.
- Describe your proposed presentation in a paragraph.
- Provide a title for your proposed presentation.
- Include your name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.
- Send your proposal by email or snail mail to
  - Jim Hastings, jimhastings@elp.rr.com, or Kathy Barton, agustusmc@sbcglobal.net, or
  - El Paso Native Plant Society, PO Box 221036, El Paso, TX 79913
- If you send it by snail mail, please include 5 copies of it for distribution to the program subcommittee.
- Your proposal should be received by July 10, 2014. (If you've missed that deadline, you may see if there's still a time slot available by contacting Jim Hastings at jimhastings@elp.rr.com.)

**Only three presenters** will be selected. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made its decision.

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## From the President

by *Renée West*

We were walking a trail on an early June morning. It was quite warm, so unlike the cool May mornings. Summer is beginning to take over here in Eddy County. We did have a few inches of rain in the second half of May. And now many of the flowers from that burst of moisture are fading with the onslaught of summer's dry heat.

Unique and beautiful plants, most of the ocotillos are still leafed out but the flowers have given way to developing fruits. As we passed a cluster of the plants, I glanced up and saw a white-winged dove sitting at the top of a long ocotillo branch, sticking its bill in among the growing fruits. Not behavior I had ever seen from those big birds.

Looking around some more, we saw many ocotillos with doves poking at their fruits. One plant had four doves on separate branches!

It doesn't matter the time of year or the weather—there's interesting and beautiful life going on all around us, available to anyone who can escape the concrete world for a while. I spy a pretty little black and orange moth sitting on the branch of a shrub. My friend bends down to take a look and finds dozens more of them that I had not noticed on branches and leaves. Now that we're aware of them, we see even more as we continue down the trail. One person sees something, the other expands the view or notices something else. We share our fascination with the diversity of life.

A week earlier, a few days after a damaging thunderstorm with rain and hail, I was walking alone when I found



some rain lilies in bloom. A rare treat in our area: tiny pale yellow flowers and wire-thin leaves that pop up after a rain. As I point them out to a friend, a tiny solitary bee drops into the flower and gets to work on the pollen. A tiny pollinator for a tiny flower.

It wasn't until the flowers wilted that I even noticed the leaves and stems. Now that I know where to look, I can see lots of the leaves still above ground. Along our trail there's a low spot that filled with water in May and is now dry. In its previously moist edges you can still find the rain lily plants.

Once you are tuned in to the search, it's hard not to see all kinds of fascinating tiny creatures as well as the bigger ones. Insects, spiders, tiny red mites. Mosses and lichens and ferns. Some only come out when it has just rained—tarantulas and millipedes, ocotillo leaves and liverworts. We sometimes forget about these little lives until weeks or months later, when the rains come again.

We travel together on this nature trail, but we see or miss seeing different things and come away with different impressions. Life is all around us—large and small, beautiful and strange. It's all there! That's why summer is my favorite time of year.

Summer is getting into full swing in El Paso, too. I can't wait to see what their summer rains will bring. But we'll be able to view it all on field trips at the NPSNM annual meeting July 31 through August 2. Details are on our website. Don't forget to sign up! ❖

**If you received this newsletter via email, and would prefer a hard-copy, please notify Deb Farson at [nativeplantsNM@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantsNM@gmail.com).**

### Calling All Writers and Photographers!

If you're going to the Annual Meeting, and if, at some point during the July 31–August 2 event, you find yourself at a fascinating-fun-amazing talk, walk, workshop, or botanical what-have-you, photograph it! Write about it! Share your enthusiasm and new-found knowledge. Submit an article and/or high-resolution photos to the newsletter editor, Sarah Johnson, at [sarita@gilanet.com](mailto:sarita@gilanet.com). The deadline for the next issue is September 1.

**BE SURE TO VISIT**  
[www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference/](http://www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference/)

Items are still being accepted  
for the Annual Meeting's silent auction.

For more information or to offer  
one of your invaluable treasures, please contact  
Jim Hastings: [jimhastings@elp.rr.com](mailto:jimhastings@elp.rr.com), 915/240-7414  
Kathy Barton: [agustusmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agustusmc@sbcglobal.net), 915/592-1707

#### Please Note

As this newsletter goes to press, there are still time slots available for Annual Meeting member presentations. See front page for more details.

## How to Help Rare Plants and Have a Good Time, Too: Treasures Abound

by Barbara Fix, Albuquerque Chapter

A while ago Daniela Roth, successor to Bob Sivinski in the Forestry Division as the sole botanist for rare plants employed by New Mexico, made a rare offer to the public. If people picked a rare plant or an area where rare plants were once known to exist, she would train volunteers in how to find them, facilitate access to areas not open to the public, and provide GPS devices for locating rare plant treasures found. (See NPSNM newsletter dated July–September 2013.)

As the only free-ranging botanist employed by the state, it is impossible for Daniela to keep track of how all reported rare plants are faring. Many such were located before GPS was readily available, so are known only by necessarily imprecise descriptions. What to do? How about giving eager volunteers a treasured experience while looking for those plant treasures?

In April, as a trial run of the rare plant treasure hunt, a group took up Daniela's offer to explore areas of critical environmental concern in the BLM's Ball Ranch to search for grama grass cactus (*Scelerocactus papyracanthus*). This cactus, once thought to be scarce, probably because it is so small and hard to see, is not endangered. Daniela considered hunting for it worthwhile because some folks had voiced concern about the status of this species and also she wanted to see how the project would work. It turned out to be a great day in a beautiful place with enjoyable company. Sharp eyes espied the tiny cacti in the two areas Daniela had determined from records existed. Their precise GPS locations were recorded. Their future populations can now be assessed accurately.



**Grama grass or paper spine cactus**  
(*Scelerocactus papyracanthus*). Photo: Daniela Roth

The serious purpose of the treasure hunts is to find, assess, and protect rare plants in the face of climate change and other challenges. Rare plants are not the only endangered species. Botanists are, too. Less than a handful of botanists are employed by federal agencies in New Mexico. Daniela spent a great deal of time researching records of the grama grass cacti and organizing the day. The research and training she is offering could be one way for people interested in native plants to make significant contributions to the collection of accurate data on which future decisions should be based.

Think about it. Is there some rare plant, or habitat where a rare plant is believed to exist, that you would like to monitor? If so, contact Daniela Roth at 505/476-3347 or Daniela.Roth@state.nm.us. ❖



**Treasure Hunt volunteers and cooperators**  
(from left to right): Rich Reif, Joe Newman,  
Daniela Roth, Dan Benton, Pat Benton,  
Susan Westbrook, John Oberhausen,  
Barabara Fix, Andrea Chavez.

Photo: Daniela Roth

### The Newsletter of the NPSNM

July–September 2014. Vol. 39 No. 3. 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 September 1, 2014.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at [sarita@gilanet.com](mailto:sarita@gilanet.com), or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

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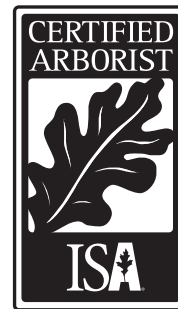
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**Mission** The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is a non-profit organization that strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

## The Future of the Living World under Human Influence: Returning the Study of Whole Plants and Animals to the Biology Curriculum

by Jack L. Carter, Gila Chapter

My hypothesis in this paper is that if students are to know and develop an interest in the environment and the conservation of the natural world, then they must be exposed to the natural world as part of their education. It seems logical that students enrolled in basic biological science courses should somewhere along the way, through field observations and investigations, study living organisms that they can see, touch, hear, smell, and perhaps taste. Is this not a basic part of education in the life sciences? Why was this experience so important to so many of the students of natural history and biology who came before us, and equally important in the education of many of those who might read this paper? And why today is this same field experience of practically no importance to life science education?

More years ago than I care to count, it was my pleasure to become acquainted with Marsten Bates. For the young reader of this paper, who unfortunately never had the opportunity to know Marsten or read his little book titled *The Forest and the Sea*, let me say he is what I would identify as the total biologist. He was what I hope each of us who teach the life sciences would like to become. Although we might call him a physiological ecologist today, he referred to himself as a naturalist and part-time entomologist with a social conscience. Certainly he was a field biologist and lepidopterist who understood the relationship and dependencies that exist among a wide range of organisms and their environment. He was a student of malaria, and for some years directed the Rockefeller Foundation's yellow fever laboratory. Following these several careers he became a professor of zoology at the University of Michigan.

One of his most important contributions was to encourage science and society to understand that the unit of life is not limited to the molecule, the cell, a single species, but encompasses ecosystems and more. He would argue that the unit is the Earth and that allowing students to graduate with only knowledge of subsets of the total package leads to the biology curriculum we have today. Consequently many of us have found ourselves attempting to bring plants, animals, microbes, and ecosystems back into the course of study, while others are arguing that DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, and human biology are what the life sciences are all about. Marsten articulated clearly that if students failed to study and understand the interrelationships that exist among living things and the environment in which these organisms exist, it would never be possible for students to comprehend the responsibilities that come with being human.

Professor Bates made the phrases "skin-in" and "skin-out" biology famous. Also, he insisted that to teach one without giving attention to the other was to play a dirty trick on the students. Were we to require students to know the details of the mosquito life cycle, without understanding the relationship among water, *Homo sapiens*, and the living patterns of both species is simply confusing and a waste of our limited time with the students.

As we examine the changes that have taken place over the past several decades in what and how we teach biology, we find a variety of reasons are commonly given for the removal of plants, animals, and field activities from the curriculum. Some of the reasons we commonly hear include:

- Schools and universities do not have the funds available to offer field courses to all students.
- We do not have the number of faculty required to teach field courses.

*Continued page 6*

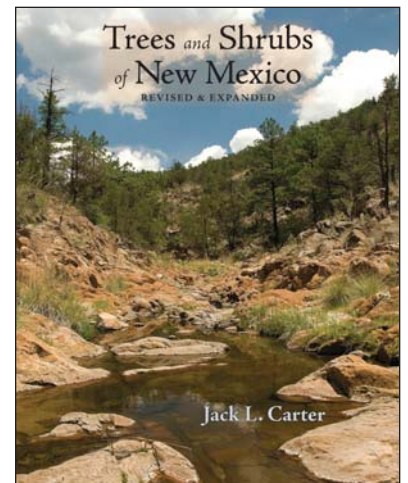
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**The Future of the Living World** *(continued from p. 5)*

- Field courses require transportation and we do not have the available vehicles.
- The study of plants and animals in a field setting isn't an important part of biology education today.
- Today's students are more interested in themselves and their personal biology; consequently, the study of other organisms isn't appropriate.
- Computers do a better job of educating students than field experiences.
- It really isn't important for students to study variation in species and to know one plant or animal from another.
- New faculty in biology are not qualified to teach field courses because they lack the training in their major.
- The "standards" now determine what and how we teach and teachers are no longer determining the curriculum.

From my readings of the literature of the life sciences, I believe Marsten Bates, Aldo Leopold, Paul Sears, Rachel Carson, Loren Eiseley, E. O. Wilson, Peter Haven, David Ehrenfeld, and Howard Odum, to name only a few, would agree that we have removed field studies from the biologic education of the young, and in so doing have made a decision, whether conscious or unconscious, to withhold from future generations an important aspect of being human, and a critical part of a liberal arts education. The very basic question I am asking is this: "Can we afford to continue eliminating active field studies with real plants and animals from the curriculum, and at the same time expect students to understand such concepts as ecology, evolution, biodiversity, and biogeography at the level required to make basic decisions concerning the conservation and restoration of the flora and fauna that protect planet Earth?"

The majority of students who enroll in their first biology course have never had an opportunity to consider their relationship to the natural world. We have an opportunity to help them make the connections between their species and the millions of other species that are struggling to survive. Many of these students have never visited a wooded area, a desert, or a riparian environment, and examined those species that define those ecosystems and the physical limitations for life in that habitat. The teacher has this one, and possibly only this one, opportunity to open the minds of these students to what the requirements are for protecting natural ecosystems. At the same time the students have a right to know and better understand their role in protecting the natural world.

Perhaps a far more reaching question needs to be addressed. Humankind has struggled over several hundred years through a series of belief systems that all seem to fall

short. The authoritarianism of most religions, some governments and some families have met their match as larger numbers of students of all ages question a simplistic approach to the meaning of life. Thoughtful people are informed through their education and a wide range of media, and are taught to ask very pragmatic questions as to what is actually taking place over planet Earth. They see the need to reduce world population, they have some sense of desertification and limited water, they learn daily of the starving millions of people, and at the same time they see through an economic system that can only encourage growth in a world of limits.

Also, the Puritan belief system that espoused an individualized Christian path to God and everlasting life has slipped from reality and has left us with a society that runs pell-mell from one god to another. It has led to an "I'll get mine" philosophy of religion, economics and education, without knowing what we finally seek. Our society cannot today decide where we stand on everything from abortion, to homosexuality, to the role of women, to gene therapy and protecting the environment.

Rituals in many institutions including religion, family and education have crumbled, due in part to the failure of these systems to provide satisfying experiences that can hold the community of humankind together. There is a deep sense of urgency and frustration among old and young alike that we need something in which to believe. As we move to protect, conserve and finally to restore some portion of the natural world, we have an opportunity to bring new meaning to all life. The methods of science used in studying the natural world are ideally suited to this important task at this time in the history of humankind, if we will only fulfill our obligation as biology teachers.

In the past two decades a large portion of the "skin-out" study of plants and animals has been sharply reduced, if not eliminated, from the school and college biology curriculum. With this loss, the opportunity for students to see themselves as part of the natural world, and to study whole organisms in a field setting, has been removed from the syllabus. I would argue that the community of biology teachers has relinquished its responsibility to educate and involve the young in studies of conservation and restoration of the natural world. This is at a time when students seek a role in which they can see themselves as active participants in a belief system that has lifelong implications.

Perhaps you have never considered the process of education to be a ritual in which our society has great faith. If you question the idea, I would ask you to look into the eyes of parents as they see their offspring participate in a high school or college graduation ceremony. This is especially

true if these parents never had an opportunity to receive this honor themselves. At the same time, parents have expectations for the ritual of a biology course and what that course will teach their children about the natural world. Basic knowledge of plants, animals and the microscopic world, respect for living organisms and the ecosystem in which these organisms have evolved, exposure to real life experiences in studying and conserving some small portion of the natural world, and the development of an ethic toward all living things are what society wants students to take from their education in the life sciences. Does the biology curriculum in our schools and colleges today reach these objectives?

Think on these things. ❖

*Legacy: What we leave behind, we give to the future.*

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information, call Barbara Fix at 505/989-8654.

## Flowering Plants of New Mexico

by Gene Jercinovic

*Flowering Plants of New Mexico* by Robert DeWitt Ivey is without a doubt one of the most consulted references for people interested in this state's native plants. The first edition appeared in 1983. Over the next 25 years, four more editions appeared, culminating with the fifth edition in 2008. DeWitt told me that more than 10,000 copies had been sold. When he was 85, he told me that the fifth would be his last. During his last years, he and I discussed the future of his important book. He recognized the significance of his artistic abilities and scientific accuracy both to botanists and, more importantly, to those not interested in the intricacies of botanical science. He also expressed his wish to leave a legacy for his wife Vivian. He felt that it was important to keep his work alive. We discussed the possibility of producing the book digitally.

My wife, Betty, and I recently completed the conversion of his book to digital format. The fifth edition of *Flowering Plants of New Mexico* is now available at Lulu.com for \$36.00 plus shipping. When a book is ordered, it will be printed by Lulu within two or three days and then delivered via FedEx in about five days.

At DeWitt's request, all proceeds from the sale of this book will be directed to his wife. ❖

## New Mexico Wildflower App

Flora ID Northwest has published a new Android app for New Mexico Wildflowers on the Google Play Store. They are pleased to make this available in a "field-friendly format" that is the culmination of nearly 20 years of producing interactive plant keys. Titled "2600 New Mexico Wildflowers," the app includes 86% of all the native and naturalized, non-grasslike flowering species in New Mexico and over 7,900 photos. Species can be sorted by either common or scientific names, with synonyms listed in descriptions. For more details, visit [www.flora-id-northwest.com](http://www.flora-id-northwest.com). ❖



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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 [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org); click on Local Chapters; then

### Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month (except July!) at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at 505/286-8745 or [sedges@swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com). For field trips contact Dana Price, [dana\\_price@gmx.com](mailto:dana_price@gmx.com), 505/872-2646. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

**Jul 9** Meeting (*note the date*). The Southwest's First Urban National Wildlife Refuge—Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR. Jennifer Owen-White, refuge manager, discusses its development and the community's vision for it.

**Jul 12** Field Trip. Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (South Valley). Refuge manager Jennifer Owen-White, leader. The one-hour tour begins at the refuge at 9:30 a.m. The tour is filled; there is a waiting list. Contact Jim McGrath at 505/286-8745 or [sedges@swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com) if interested.

**Aug 16** Field Trip. Magdalena Mtns, Timber Ridge. George Miller, leader. 10,000-ft elev. south of Socorro. Last year saw 40 species of flowers. The ridge hike leads through a meadow with views in all directions and into a ponderosa forest. We hope to see lots of species not often seen in the Sandias. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [G].

**Aug 30** Field Trip. Red Canyon in the Manzanos. Carolyn Dodson (268-7889) and Pam McBride (343-9472), leaders. Hike begins at Red Canyon Campground which is reached by turning south on Forest Rd 253 at the southern edge of the small town of Manzano off NM 14. Easy wildflower walk with several small stream crossings. Carpoolers meet 8:30 a.m. at [A]. Bring lunch.

**Sep 3** Meeting. Bringing Back a Native: the Reintroduction of Gunnison's Prairie Dogs at Sevilleta NWR. Jon Erz, Sevilleta wildlife biologist, has reestablished a stable population of Gunnison's prairie dogs on the refuge during the last six years. Now Jon and researchers have been investigating how vegetation and other small mammals have responded to this reintroduction.

### El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-

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.

members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414.

**Jul 10** Meeting. The Labyrinth Project. El Paso Academy West Special Projects Coordinator Travis Duckworth discusses his prize-winning Labyrinth Garden project for students and community. The project won first place in a national competition.

**Aug 1-2** NPSNM State Meeting in El Paso. No regular chapter meeting. There's still time to register. Info at [www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference](http://www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference).

**Sep 11** Post-Conference evaluation and strategic planning session.

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, with refreshments following the program. 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).

**Jul 20** Field Trip. Railroad Canyon. This will be to see how things are coming back after the fire, and we hope to find the little rare *Scrophularia macrantha* seen in past years.

**Aug 17** Field Trip. Sheep Corral. We will look for *Solanum jamesii* (wild potato) among plenty of other plants liking a cool northern drainage.

**Sep 19** Meeting. Human-Caused Climate Change and Habitat Shallowing as an Adaptation Tool. A.T. Cole, owner of Pitchfork Ranch.

**Sep 21** Field Trip. Pancho Canyon, above Gila Bird Area. *Trichostema arizonicum* and *Anisacanthus thurberi* are favored in this area.

### Las Cruces

Meetings and workshops are second Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) 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. 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.

**Jul 9** Meeting. Rarest of the Rare: Native Flora of White Sands Missile Range. Dave Anderson.

**Jul 12** Field Trip. Walk in La Luz Canyon to observe wildflowers of the Sacramento Mtns. Meet 8 a.m. at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy 70.

**Aug 13** 2014 Planning Meeting and Election.

**Sep 10** Meeting. Global Change: Influences on Arid Systems. Heather Throop, NMSU biology professor.

**Sep 13** Field Trip. We will explore part of the Organ Mts.-Desert Peaks N.M., by taking a plant walk on the west side of the Robledo Mtns. Meet 8 a.m. at Post Office in Fairacres.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Tim Mills, tim.mills1@gmail.com, 210/883-7170; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575/585-3315 or 575/443-3928. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

**Jul 19** Field Trip. Drive from Laborcita Canyon to La Luz Canyon Rd. Come out onto Hwy 24 at Silver Spring. Meet at the La Luz Post Office at 8 a.m. Bring snacks and water. *Alternative in case Lincoln National Forest is closed:* Have a luncheon meeting at Margo's. Everyone can bring their favorite native plant (live, or photos, etc.), talk about it and why it's your favorite. We will let everyone know at least a week ahead of time.

**Jul 31–Aug 2** State Conference in El Paso. See NPSNM Newsletter for April–June.

**Aug 13–16** Otero County Fair. As usual, all help at our booth is much appreciated. More information will be sent out later.

**Sep 20** White Sands Missile Range field trip with Dave Anderson. Those who signed up for May 16 need only to inform Helgi whether they still plan to go. All other chapter members are also eligible; sign up with Helgi. Email her with your name, address, phone number, and driver's license number before August 18. You will be informed about where to meet at least two weeks before the trip. Bring lunch and plenty of water.

### San Juan (Southwest Colorado)

The San Juan/Four Corners Native Plant Society will have numerous summer field trips. See the chapter's web page on the Four Corners Flora website, [www.swcoloradowildflowers.com](http://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com). Field trips are free and open to everyone. For further information, call Al at 970/882-4647.

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso; across street from fire station). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

**Jul 12** Field Trip. North of Los Alamos, adjacent to the Guaje Pines cemetery. Chick Keller, leader. Wildflowers will include *Penstemon virgatus* and *oliganthus*, yellow paintbrush. Carpoolers meet 7:30 a.m. at K-Mart parking lot on St. Michael's Drive.

### Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Coronado Hall at the Taos Convention Center. Please check the NPSNM website for updates and additional information on activities, or contact Sallie at taos800@aol.com or 575/776-0860.

**Jul 12** Field Trip. Pederal. View desert plants in the upper Sonoran zone dominated by juniper and pinyon pine, cactus, and yucca. Afterwards, we drive to Ghost Ranch to tour the museum and have lunch. All-day trip.

**Aug 16** Field Trip. Williams Lake. Focus will be on sub-alpine and alpine plants. All-day trip.

**Aug thru Nov** Members and friends begin harvesting native plant seeds. See Taos website for instructions and where to drop them off.

**Sep 13** Field Trip. Italianos Canyon. Learn about plants of the Canadian zone and hike to an aspen grove to learn about the role of aspen in the spruce and fir forest. Half-day trip.

**Sep 17** Talk. Speaker TBD.

**Sep 20** Field Trip. Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve, Santa Fe. Guided tour/nature walk with botanist Bob Sivin-ski. All-day trip.

**Sep 27** Hands-on Workshop. New Mexico Trees and Shrubs. Jack Carter.



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Your generous financial support makes so much possible. Donations through May 2014 total \$6,785. Please let us know if you donated and did not receive a thank you and receipt for tax deduction. ~Jack & Martha Carter

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*Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora!*

During 2014, if you contribute \$100 or more, you will receive a gift copy of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*.

( Check here if you do not wish to receive the book.)

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**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. Books dealing with plants, landscaping, and 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 (contact information listed on page 4).



**New Mexico wildflower posters:** \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)  
**Cactus poster:** \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter:  
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- |   |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque  | <input type="checkbox"/> Otero (Alamogordo)                           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Las Cruces   | <input type="checkbox"/> Taos   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation                                     |   |
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**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

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*Remember that 25% of contributions are returned annually to the individual chapters!*



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## NEWSLETTER

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# Grass Identification Workshop

## September 4–6, 2014

with Kelly Allred at Sevilleta Field Station

Kansas Senator John James Ingalls said in an 1871 address: “Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. . . . It bears no blazonry or bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose.” Grasses also feed the world. Civilization as we know it would not exist without corn, wheat, barley, rye, oats, rice, and millet, which are all grasses. Sugar cane, sorghum, and corn are the grasses that sweeten most of our foods and drinks. Bamboo grasses provide the structural necessities of Asian cultures and giant reed grass makes woody reeds for the woodwind instruments that fill our lives with music. Grass is the staff of life for open range cattle, horses, and large wild ungulates such as elk and buffalo. The Grass Family (Poaceae) is the third most species-rich plant family in the world, and grasses are often the keystone elements of large and important ecosystems. There are 427 species of grass in New Mexico, so you really need to know how to identify them.

**COME LEARN** the terminology and techniques of grass identification with New Mexico agrostologist Kelly Allred at the Sevilleta Field Station near Socorro. Each participant will receive and work with a copy of Kelly’s *A Field Guide to the Grasses of New Mexico*. This workshop includes lectures, identification exercises in the lab, and a field trip to the nearby Rio Grande valley and Manzano Mountains.

**FEE** includes 2 nights’ dormitory-style lodging at the UNM Sevilleta Research Station. NPSNM members: \$175; nonmembers \$200 (includes 1-year NPSNM membership).

**REGISTER** online at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org), or contact Bob Sivinski at [bsivinski@cybermesa.com](mailto:bsivinski@cybermesa.com)