



NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2018

VOL. XXXXIII No. 2

Discover the Plants, People, and Culture of the Gila September 7–9, 2018, in Silver City, New Mexico



Above, indian pink, *Silene laciniata*. At right, a pollen-coated bee is busy on a yellow composite.

Photos: Elroy Limmer

See full details on pages 9–14.
Registration form on page 15.

The Gila Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is delighted to welcome you to the 2018 annual state conference, to be held on the campus of Western New Mexico University. Members of the Gila chapter enjoy this beautiful area because of the exceptional diversity of its landscapes, its flora and fauna, and its people. We invite you to join us at the conference and explore both the plant community and the human communities, past and present, that make this a unique place.

Surrounded by 3.3 million acres of national forest, including three wilderness areas, Silver City is the perfect base for hiking and botanizing. We are offering a wide variety of field trips to give you the opportunity to do just that. But, as we know, even in wilderness areas people have been interacting with the natural environment here for millennia, and that includes the ancient Mimbres, the Apaches, and all the inhabitants up to the present time. In keeping with our theme, “Plants, People, and Culture of the Gila,” we have also decided to provide opportunities to explore some of those interactions in our presentations, field trips, and workshops.

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From the President

by Tom Stewart

It has been scientifically proven that taking care of plants, and even passive exposure to gardens, is beneficial to your health. A pioneering experiment by E.J. Langer and J. Rodin (Harvard, 1976) showed that when half the residents of a nursing home were given a plant to tend, they had improvements in blood pressure, fewer doctor visits, faster recovery from illness, and a better outlook on life than the control group of their neighbors. This effect has been confirmed by many other, independent studies over the past four decades.

Well, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico does not take care of a single plant, strangely enough. But we're doing OK. In our own way we look out for all the native plants in our area, speaking up for them when decisions and plans are being made by the powers that be. This can't be the job of just the central organization, which is only a handful of chapter members, including committee chairs, an outreach person, and a couple of administrative helpers (bless 'em all!). There is no cadre of foresters, botanists, growers, speakers, or restoration ecologists we can send out when we get requests. And we get such requests often.

I am so happy that we have regional chapters who do their part, as they are in the best position to know the local needs and opportunities. At the Natural History of the Gila Symposium last month in Silver City, I had a chance to visit the inspiring Silva Creek Botanical Garden with chapter president Elroy Limmer. The garden lot was once an unsightly depot for road equipment and fuel storage; trans-



forming it was a slumbering idea finally sparked to life with a commitment by the Gila chapter and a generous donor, in collaboration with the city government. Help was marshaled from the Aldo Leopold Youth Conservation Corps, other citizen groups, and a PNM grant for hardscape materials. The result is a place where people can find peace and beauty and continue to volunteer for their community if they so wish.

The Albuquerque chapter has also given support to an ongoing, neighborhood-initiated effort to turn a fire-scorched park area into a xeriscaped habitat for native pollinators. And last year, this same chapter provided a very popular workshop for homeowners interested in native landscaping for wildlife. I know it is already a big job to present public programs and hold meetings, especially for smaller chapters, but many members and potential members are, consciously or not, raring to go and waiting for a way to contribute. Valuing someone by asking for their help can be powerful.

Speaking of contributions, hats off to two more long-time members of NPSNM. Jim Hastings of El Paso was chapter treasurer for six years, and then president for three. In that capacity he has succeeded now by Ellen Saad, but he will never be replaced as the "Gringo Gourmet" of cactus cookery and borderland cuisine fame. And Carolyn Dodson, a wonderful author in her own right, is stepping down from her Albuquerque role as librarian and book monger after decades of lugging heavy boxes to monthly meetings! ❖

2018 Donations, Grants, and Teacher Award Announced

by Bettie Hines, Albuquerque chapter

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 27, 2018, to approve donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso, review and award grant proposals, and determine the Teacher Award for 2018.

Herbaria: \$600 donations will be given to the following herbaria: University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso, San Juan College, and Western New Mexico University.

The **Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund** continues to support the grant awards. The Society expresses much gratitude and appreciation to the Carters, who generously established this fund, and to all who have contributed

to this worthwhile cause. *Please continue to support this fund so that it grows and can support the grants in the future.*

Grants: The following grants were awarded:

- Photosynthesis and Carbon Cycling Lessons for New Mexico 7th Graders; Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces, NM
- Floral Surveys of Manzano Wilderness Area in Valencia County and Baseline Survey of Sabinosa Wilderness; Steven Perkins, Assistant Professor, Biology/Ecology, San Juan College Herbarium
- Potential Adaptation of Brassicaceae of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert to Gypsum Soils by Repurposing Chemical Defenses; LK "Kal" Touminen, Biology Student, John Carroll University

Continued

- Proceedings of the 7th Natural History of the Gila Symposium; William Norris, Professor of Biology, WNMU
- Expansion of Native Plant Curriculum Education into Southern New Mexico; Sara Digby, Education Coordinator, IAE
- *Carex* Measurement Project; Jim McGrath, Botanist, JM Botanical Enterprises
- Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River; Donna Stevens, Director, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
- The Impact of Grassland Restoration Practices on Desert Soils; Kathleen Esther Schaeffer, PhD student, UTEP

Teacher Award: Mary Erwin, Wilson Middle School, Albuquerque. Mary plans to use her award to purchase lab kits to make it easier for teachers to incorporate the campus garden into their curriculum and to purchase native seeds to increase the diversity of their plantings and provide more food and shelter for pollinators. ❖

Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Silver City

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, and the Gila Conservation Coalition and Upper Gila Watershed Alliance are ramping up efforts to use this visionary legislation to protect the Gila River in perpetuity. As part of this campaign, the Gila Conservation Coalition is hosting the annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Friday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. at Light Hall on the Western New Mexico University campus. This event features films about protecting wild rivers worldwide, inspiring stories of activism, and amusing short films and animations. More information available at www.gilaconservation.org. ❖

Invitation to the Unafraid

A volunteer member who is not afraid of numbers or balancing a checkbook can make a great contribution to NPSNM. Their occasional role will begin in late September. Please write to nativeplantsnm@gmail.com using the subject "checks and balances." Thanks!



Raffle Treasures

During the 7th Natural History of the Gila Symposium, at WNMU in Silver City, Gila chapter members Joan Limmer, left, and Betty Spence sold raffle tickets at the chapter's information table. Beside them is the grand prize for the Annual Conference raffle—a quilt created expressly for the occasion by Elli Sorensen. The quilt features 44 native plants hand-painted on silk. Second prize is a photo by Elroy Limmer float-mounted on metal, and third prize is a signed, framed original poster by Jim Brandenburg. Photo: Elva Osterreich

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

April–June 2018. Vol. 43 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, 2018. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, , or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

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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.

Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Shenzhen Declaration on Plant Sciences

The International Botanical Congress was held in China for the first time in 2017. In recognition of the enormous man-made challenges facing the natural environment, and of the rapid changes occurring within the field of botany, a statement was drafted by a group of Chinese, American, and British scientists forming the Shenzhen Declaration Drafting Committee. The statement, reprinted below, is a commitment by the academic botany community to prioritize strategic action in the plant sciences. The Declaration was endorsed without dissent by the 7,000 botanists attending the IBC closing session.

The Shenzhen Call For Action: Seven Priorities

We endorse the following seven priorities for strategic action in the plant sciences. Vigorous development of these areas will allow society, with the help of science, to mitigate impacts of human activities on plant species, habitats, and distributions, and to approach formation of a sustainable world for ourselves and those who follow us.

To become responsible scientists and research communities who pursue plant sciences in the context of a changing world. Plant scientists must contribute to regional and global sustainability as directly and efficiently as possible. Key efforts, such as the urgent preservation of plant diversity and the adaptation of agriculture to increasingly warm climates, must be strengthened greatly if we are to meet the challenges ahead. Our research is not conducted in a vacuum, and we cannot continue to act as if we have a great deal of time available, when we simply and clearly do not. We must confront challenges swiftly and directly to mitigate rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions.

To enhance support for the plant sciences to achieve global sustainability. Plants play a central role in functioning ecosystems. They also are our sole source of food (directly or indirectly), and provide many of our medicines, building materials, clothing materials, and other essential products. Plants deserve a far greater level of scientific attention through enhanced public and private funding than they are receiving at present. Integrated studies are necessary to develop robust solutions to environmental problems. Support across plant sciences, from description to use, should be provided at adequate levels and sustained.

To cooperate and integrate across nations and regions and to work together across disciplines and cultures to address common goals. Science is by its very nature international, with the plant sciences no exception. Although progress has been made in moving forward together, stronger international cooperation will be needed to halt biodiversity loss, improve agriculture, and maintain a stable climate. Working together has never been more important. Stable global partnerships are badly needed to overcome barriers and provide integrated, effective solutions to urgent environmental challenges as rapidly as possible.

To build and use new technologies and big data platforms to increase exploration and understanding of nature. New technical approaches to information and information sharing will only accelerate in the years to come, making sustainability of data platforms imperative. Increasingly large, linked databases reveal new connections and relationships about life on Earth. Our rapidly advancing ability to sequence genomes leads to new ways of understanding the diversity, evolution, and functioning of life on our planet. As these and other new technologies expand, we must apply them in timely, integrated, and practical ways to organize information and address environmental problems.

To accelerate the inventory of life on Earth for the wise use of nature and the benefit of humankind. More than half of the land plant species could be extinct in nature by the end of the present century. Although we have given names to many, we know very little about most of them, and there are more that await discovery. Those we know now can be protected or preserved, but the urgency of finding and learning about the unknowns before they become extinct is clear. Doing so will require integration and collaboration on a scale we have not yet achieved. We need to know plants in order to save them, but time is short.

To value, document, and protect indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge about plants and nature. Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge about nature is disappearing even more rapidly than is biodiversity itself. Once lost, such knowledge, with its unique insights into nature, can never be regained. Plant scientists must work together with holders of this knowledge to understand and achieve sustainable environmental

Continued page 8

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; click on Local Chapters; then

Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at [sedges \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com) or George Miller at [goxfordm1844 \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:goxfordm1844@yahoo.com). For field trips, contact Carol Conoboy, [carolconoboy \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:carolconoboy@gmail.com), 505/897-3530. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

Apr 4 Meeting. Living with Native Plants. Michael Eustacio Chavez, who grew up on what is now Sevilleta NWR.

Apr 7 Field Trip. Walking Tour with Michael Eustacio Chavez at Sevilleta NWR. 10 a.m.–Noon. Meet at [G] at 8:45, arrive at Sevilleta NWR parking lot at 10 a.m.

Apr 14 Field Trip. Bosque del Apache NWR. Tom Stewart, leader. Tour the Desert Arboretum; optional hike follows. Meet 8 a.m. at [G] or 9:30 at the Desert Arboretum.

Apr 15 Field Trip. Grama Grass Cactus and Native Plant Potpourri. Jim McGrath, leader. Search for cactus/flowers in hills west of San Ysidro. Meet 8 a.m. at [G]; return about 3 p.m.

Apr 21 Field Trip. Quebradas. Lenore Goodell and Doris Eng, leaders. Meet 8 a.m. at [G]; return at 6 or 7 p.m.

Apr 29 Field Trip. U-Mound at Copper/Tramway. Tom Stewart, leader. Meet 9 a.m. at eastern end of Copper NE.

May 2 Meeting. Native Plant Islands and Other Plant Propagation Projects by Santa Ana Native Plants (Santa Ana Nursery). Santa Ana Native Plants manager Mike Halverson.

May 4 Native Plant Island Workshop. 10 a.m.–Noon. Mike Halverson, instructor. Santa Ana Nursery, 140 Ranchitos Road, Bernalillo. Carpoolers meet 9:20 a.m. at [G].

May 12 Field Trip. Rio Grande Nature Center Stroll, at the annual Nature Center Herbfest. Meet 9 a.m. in parking lot.

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.

May 19 Field Trip. Cerrillos Hills State Park. Kerry Calhoun, leader. Hike 3 mi; elevation gain 748'. Meet 8 a.m. at [A].

Jun 6 Meeting. Insects (You Never Heard Of) on Native Plants (You Know So Well). Carol Sutherland, Extension Entomologist at NMSU and State Entomologist, NMDA.

Jun 9 Field Trip. Ojito Wilderness Hoodoo Trail. Lenore Goodell, leader. Meet 8 a.m. at US 550/Sprint Blvd at Home Depot, W of Bernalillo (NW corner of lot); return 4 p.m.

Jun 23 Field Trip. Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. Ted Hodaba and Don Heinze, leaders. Meet 8 a.m. at [G].

El Paso

El Paso Chapter meetings are at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414, [jimhastings \[at\] elp.rr.com](mailto:jimhastings@elp.rr.com).

Apr 12 UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Gardens FloraFest Preview. John White, Garden Curator. The Florafest Plant Sale is April 28–29 at the Centennial Museum, UTEP campus.

May 10 Trees of the Trans-Pecos. Oscar Mestas, former Texas Forestry Service Urban Forester for El Paso.

Jun 14 Program and details to be announced.

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, Rm. 219, with refreshments following the program. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre for carpooling. For more hike info, call Hanna Blood, 575/388-1530. Updates posted on GilaNPS.org.



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Apr 15 Hike. Destination TBA.

Apr 20 Meeting. Interactions Between Domesticated, Feral, and Native Bees in the Southwest. Manda Clair Jost, Professor, WNMU Dept. of Natural Sciences.

May 18 Meeting. Transport and Fate of Plant-Based and Manmade Chemicals in the Environment. Kenneth Sexton.

May 20 Hike. Destination TBA.

Jun 17 Hike. Destination TBA.

Las Cruces

Meetings are fourth 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 usually 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. Contact: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413.

Apr 25 Meeting. Otero Mesa through the Seasons: Pronghorns, Petroglyphs, and Plants. Marcia Corl.

Apr 28 Garden tour, led by Lisa Mandelkern. Meet 9 a.m. at Fairacres Post Office.

May 5 Field trip. Tortugas Mountain. Meet 8 a.m. at Rio Grande Bank parking lot, corner Telshor/University.

May 23 Meeting. Madagascar: The Red Island—A Naturalist's Paradise. Zachary Rogers, Research Affiliate Biology, Herbarium NMSU.

Jun 2 Field trip on WSMR. Sandberg cactus, megafauna trackway, Alkali Flats, and much more, led by Dave Anderson.

Jun 27 Meeting. Sustainable, Locally Grown Flowers for Markets in Las Cruces. Susannah Calhoun.

June 23 or 30 Field trip. Tour of Susannah Calhoun's flower fields in La Mesa. Check website for update. Meet at Rio Grande Bank, corner Telshor/University.

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert [at] gmail.com, 575/443-4408; or Jen Gruger, jengruger [at] gmail.com, 575/710-2924. More info will be available by the beginning of each month.

Apr 21 Annual Native Plant Sale in Alamogordo at Oregon and 10th Street, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. All help is appreciated.

Apr 28 Earth Day at the Alamogordo Zoo. Otero Chapter booth, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Help will be needed and appreciated.

May 12 Field trip. Tour of Creekside Village. David Greenwald, archaeologist and president of the Jornada Research Institute, leader. Meet 8 a.m. Tularosa Y.

Jun 2 Field trip. Life Zones of Otero County. Linda Barker, leader. Meet 9 a.m. junction Hwy 82/North Florida Ave. to carpool in high-clearance vehicles. Bring lunch.

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, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

Apr 18 Meeting. Tree Physiology in Arid Climates: Adaptations to Stormwater Surges and Persistent Drought. William Pockman, professor, chair of UNM Biology Dept.

May 16 Meeting. Using Native and Adaptive Plants for All the Right Reasons. Wesley Brittenham, horticulturist.

Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Free and open to the public. Hikes and wildflower walks start in May. Check NPSNM website or Facebook for updates, or contact TaosNPS [at] gmail.com, or phone Jan Martenson at 575/751-0511.

Apr 19 TBA

May 17 TBA

Jun 21 TBA

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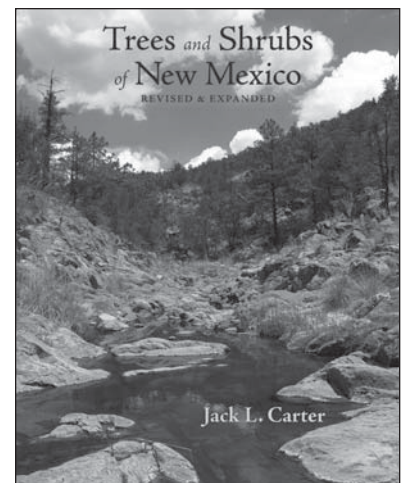
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Discover (continued from p. 1)

For our first keynote speaker, we are very fortunate to have Sharman Apt Russell, the author of the award-winning *Diary of a Citizen Scientist: Chasing Tiger Beetles and Other New Ways of Engaging the World*. Revolution, renaissance, and transformation: these are the words Sharman Apt Russell uses to describe the new world of citizen science, a world in which hundreds of thousands of volunteers are following their bliss documenting the phenology of native plants, tracking bird migrations, collecting water samples, and cataloging galaxies. She will explore the changing role of the citizen scientist, with an emphasis on projects that involve native plants in the Southwest. As Sharman says, “This is science, and this is love, and I have always believed they are the same thing.”

Continued page 16

Conservation Corner (continued from p. 5)

stewardship. Cultural diversity, coupled with crop genetic diversity, will be of central importance for future food security. We will need informed collaboration coupled with urgent, rigorous planning and implementation across cultures and knowledge systems.

To engage the power of the public with the power of plants through greater participation and outreach, innovative education, and citizen science. We need to engage the power of the public with the power of nature. People who care about the environment are motivated to do a great deal to protect it and ensure its future. The creation of an ecological civilization, where societies work together in the creation of knowledge and implementation of solutions, cannot remain only an abstract concept. We all need plants, and plants need our care now more than ever—we depend absolutely upon them for our very existence. Embedding that need into the very fabric of our societies will require global engagement, across nations and cultures—this will require all of us.

We believe that, by working together, we can unite innovative plant sciences with the needs and strengths of human societies, helping to create new paths to a green, sustainable future for Earth, with plants and people in harmony.

National Monuments Update

Senator Martin Heinrich's bill to protect wilderness within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico passed the Senate at the end of last year with unanimous support. His legislation establishes two new wilderness areas, the Cerro del Yuta Wilderness and Rio San Antonio Wilderness, within the monument. A map of the pro-

posed wilderness areas is available for download at <https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/download/map-of-rio-grande-del-norte-national-monument-proposed-wilderness-areas>. Senator Heinrich writes:

This strong bipartisan vote of support for Río Grande del Norte comes at the same time when the Trump Administration is leveling unprecedented attacks on our national monuments and public lands. President Trump's move to drastically shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in southern Utah—alongside his looming threats to other national monuments—is a direct assault on our nation's conservation legacy.

We shouldn't even need to argue about the importance of protecting public lands like these that we all treasure as integral parts of who we are as Americans. We have a moral responsibility as a nation to our children and their children to protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage. I won't stop fighting for our public lands and the outdoor traditions we all enjoy.

Castner Range Update

A provision to permanently protect the Castner Range in El Paso's Franklin Mountains became law in December, as President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act. El Paso Congressman Beto O'Rourke (who is currently running a long-shot attempt to unseat Senator Ted Cruz) called it a huge victory for those who have worked decades to preserve the “crown jewel of West Texas.”

As detailed in the October 2015 edition of the NPSNM newsletter, the Castner Range is a military tract bordering the Franklin Mountains State Park. It has high biodiversity value and hosts an annual Poppy Festival. Interestingly, although El Paso is within the natural range of the California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), the vast display on the Franklins was sowed by El Paso civic boosters in the 1930s.

The Frontera Land Alliance, a nonprofit organization working to preserve some of the important remaining natural and working lands in the greater El Paso and southern New Mexico region, has campaigned to get the Castner property declared a National Monument. That hasn't happened yet, but Frontera considers the new protections a major step in the right direction.

The provision will protect and conserve ecological, wildlife, cultural, historical, and natural resources within Castner Range. It also ensures there will be no commercial or residential development, permanent or temporary roads and use of motor vehicles or aircrafts of any kind on the land. ❖

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2018 Annual Conference

Plants, People, and Culture of the Gila

Friday,
 September 7
 to
 Sunday,
 September 9



Western
 New
 Mexico
 University
 Silver City

Conference Location: Registration and presentations will take place in the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center at 12th and Kentucky Streets on the Western New Mexico University campus. Coming from route 90, turn west onto 12th Street and continue up to the WNMU campus. Coming from route 180, turn south onto Alabama Street and right onto 12th. Plenty of parking is available to the left on Kentucky Street on either side of the Fine Arts Center Theatre. For other events we will provide maps and/or directions when you register.

Accommodations: We have arranged for special conference rates at the following hotels, all within 3.5 miles of the conference headquarters on the WNMU campus. Ask for Native Plant Society of New Mexico room block; prices listed are per night and do not include tax. *Hotel reservations should be made prior to August 23 to ensure conference rates.* ❖ The following motels offer hot breakfasts and wi-fi: **Quality Inn**, 1120 Highway 180 East, 575/534-1111: \$79.99. **Comfort Inn**, 1060 Highway 180 East, 575/534-1883: \$90. **Holiday Inn Express**, 1103 Superior, 575/538-2525: \$109.99. ❖ For something a little different: **Bear Mountain Lodge**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Rd., 575/538-2538: offering \$25 off—a beautiful inn in a rural setting (<https://bearmountainlodge.com>). It also offers breakfast and wi-fi. ❖ Two historic locations downtown are offering discounts of 10–15% to conference attendees: **The Murray Hotel**, 200 W. Broadway St., 575/956-9400. **The Palace Hotel**, 106 W. Broadway St., 575/388-1811. Breakfast is not included at these two locations. ❖ **RV Parks:** **Silver City RV Park**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 575/538-2239. **Rose Valley RV Ranch**, 2040 Memory Lane, 575/534-4277. **Manzano's RV Park**, 103 Flury Lane, 575/538-0918. **Silver City KOA**, 11824 Highway 180 East, 575/388-3351.

2018 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico Gila Chapter, Silver City, New Mexico

Field Trips and Workshops: Directions and meet-up locations will be in your registration packet. Fee for Field Trips 7 and 13 will be paid on-site (cash or check only). Remember to wear appropriate shoes and a hat and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, snacks, and hiking poles where needed—and don't forget your hand lens. Driving distances given are one-way. Carpooling is encouraged; on longer drives you may be asked to contribute a couple of dollars to your driver for gas.

Thursday, September 6

1:30–3:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting
3:00–6:00 pm Check-in/Registration

Friday, September 7

FRIDAY MORNING

8:00 am–noon Check-in/Registration

8:45–9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks—Elroy Limmer, President of the Gila Chapter, and Ken Ladner, Mayor of Silver City

Keynote Speakers:

9:00–9:45 am **Renaissance and Revolution: The New World of Citizen Science** Sharman Apt Russell

Break

10:00–10:45 am **Protecting Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Gila National Forest** Nathan Newcomer

Break

11:00 am–11:45 pm **Edible Ethnobotany of Baja New Mexico** Richard Felger

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in WNMU cafeteria

Field Trips and Workshops, 1:30–3:30 pm, unless otherwise indicated

FT 1 **Planting to Attract Pollinators and People** Leader: Kristi Dunn

A stroll through the garden areas of the Western New Mexico University campus to highlight the plantings that have been created with an eye to attracting pollinators. (And Students!) WNMU has given Kristi a unique opportunity to create different plantings and pairings on this historic campus. The tour starts at the Global Resource Center.

Hiking distance & difficulty: All walkways are paved with easy access. **Limit:** 15.

FT 2 **One Million Bones Project** Leader: Bear Mountain Lodge staff

One Million Bones is a large-scale social arts practice, combining education, hands-on art making, and public installations to raise awareness of ongoing genocides and mass atrocities in places around the world. A permanent installation of 300,000 of the bones is at the Bear Mountain Lodge north of Silver City. Hike through a pinyon-juniper forest with great views of surrounding mountains. If there are any bones left at the lodge, you can help move some to their permanent resting site in a meadow. Learn about the project at: <http://www.onemillionbones.net/silver-city-nm/> **Driving distance:** 4 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Relatively flat 2-mile loop, but we will climb 160 ft in some steep sections and cross two arroyos. **Limit:** 15.

FT 3 **Saddle Rock Riparian Restoration Area** Leader: Russ Kleinman

This area is where much of the runoff from the northern Burro Mountains channels in the summer monsoons, hence the nickname the "Throughs." It is a riparian area in an otherwise arid locality, providing for interesting flora and fauna. **Driving distance:** 30 miles, but the last few miles require carpooling in high-clearance 4WD vehicles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than a mile, some wet ground/streambed, one or two places where we scramble a few feet over rock, but generally flat. **Limit:** 15.

FT 4 Ethnobotany Tour Leaders: Richard Felger and Kelly Kindscher

A short, local ethnobotany tour provides a great opportunity to learn cultural significances of local native plants. Exact location to be determined, but the drive will be less than 10 miles and the hike less than 1 mile over moderate terrain. **Limit:** 15.

FT 5 History and Hydrology of the Big Ditch Leader: David Menzie

Walk along the Big Ditch on walkways and trails in the cool shade of riparian trees. **Driving distance:** ½ mile. **Hiking distance:** Under 2 miles total on relatively flat terrain. **Limit:** 15.

FT 6 The Gila's Bees Leader: Olivia Messinger Carril

Take a walk through pollinator habitat and learn about the requirements and ecological connectedness of native bees in New Mexico. Use a net to nab a bee and look at it up close, and learn how to identify a handful of the more than 1000 species that live here. Olivia will also give suggestions on the best ways to take photos of a bee for later identification. **Driving distance:** 6 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Easy walk of less than a mile on relatively flat trail. **Limit:** 15.

FT 7 Chiricahua Apache Ride Leader: Joe Saenz—1:30–4:30

On a half-day horseback ride from a base in Arenas Valley, experience traditional Apache territory and hear stories of the land with Joe Saenz, Warm Springs Apache and Huichol Indian and wilderness guide and outfitter. **Driving distance:** 6 miles. **Limit:** 3. **Cost: \$95 per person.**

FT 8 Silva Creek Botanical Garden #1 Leader: Elroy Limmer—1:30–2:30 pm**FT 9 Silva Creek Botanical Garden #2 Leader: Elroy Limmer—2:30–3:30 pm**

The Gila Chapter created this native plant garden on an empty lot that was once a railroad bed, later a storage yard for heavy equipment. Four years ago, the chapter began a major expansion of the garden, thanks to some generous grants and many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. Still a work in progress, but in early September it should be looking its best. **Driving distance:** ½ mile. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A stroll on gravel paths. **Limit each tour:** 20.

WSA Plant Specimen Mounting and Tour of Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium**Facilitators: Angela Flanders and Jane Spinti**

The workshop will begin with a demonstration and instruction on the basics of mounting plant specimens. Each participant will then mount 1–2 specimens. We will also tour the herbarium, which has four distinct areas and currently houses over 27,000 specimens. Finally, participants will check their specimens for any needed adjustments and complete the process. Materials provided. **Limit:** 10.

WSB Sedgucation 101 Facilitators: William Norris, Jim McGrath, and Scott Zager

Participants will learn the ins and outs of sedges in this hands-on classroom workshop. Topics to be addressed are how to distinguish sedges from rushes and grasses, how to recognize common sedge genera (*Bolboschoenus*, *Carex*, *Cyperus*, *Eleocharis*, *Schoenoplectus*, *Scirpus*) that occur in New Mexico, and strategies for learning how to identify sedge species. The instructors will bring fresh material of all the above plant groups for use by participants. Bring a hand lens, a cheap spiral bound notebook, and transparent tape for creation of a sedge reference collection. **Limit:** 20.

WSC Woodcarving Workshop Facilitator: Keller Suberkropp

Types of woodcarving and woods (particularly from native plants) will be discussed. Participants can start a carving in native cottonwood bark. Bring a knife or pocketknife if you can. **Limit:** 10.

WSD Herbal Allies for the Body from a Bioregional Perspective Facilitator: Sara Digby

This class will explore many of the common, and some not so common plants that are bioregionally available from the high mountains to low desert in New Mexico (both native and non-native). We will look at how they can be incorporated into our daily lives through food and medicine following the systems in the body, touching on some specific herbs that can generally be used to aid us in many of the common ailments we experience, and together will make some of our own herbal potions. **Limit:** 20.

5:30–7:00 pm Reception at Gomez Peak Picnic Area

7:00 pm Dinner on your own (we will provide a list of local restaurants)

Saturday, September 8

SATURDAY MORNING Field Trips and Workshops, 8:00 am–noon, unless otherwise indicated

FT 10 Birds and Botany on the Gila River Leaders: Roland Shook and William Norris

Participants will visit several ornithological and botanical hot spots along the Gila River and associated drainages. The first stop will be Mangas Springs, which is one of the very few accessible sedge meadows in southwestern New Mexico. The second stop will be Iron Bridge near Cliff, which provides a great vantage point from which to observe the meandering Gila River, a diverse avifauna, and proximity to a narrow riparian forest community. **Driving distance:** 30 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Easy stroll at both stops. **Limit:** 15.

FT 11 Apache Plant Use in Times of War and Peace Leader: Alex Mares

A short walk in City of Rocks State Park to look at plants that were and are used traditionally by Apache Peoples for medicine, food, and warfare. **Driving distance:** 33 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1.5–2 miles on level ground, easy to moderate. **Limit:** 20.

FT 12 Old Fort Bayard: From the Apache Wars to Premier Tuberculosis Treatment Center Leader: Doug Dinwiddie

The Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society has for the last 20 years sought to preserve and interpret the history of this former frontier fort and Army/Veterans hospital, which served the nation from 1866 to 2010. Dr. Dinwiddie, retired history professor, will give an orientation and lead a tour of the Parade Ground and the museum in the former Commanding Doctor's residence. **Driving distance:** 9 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A ¼-mile level walking tour on gravel paths. **Limit:** 25. **Cost:** No fee; donations are welcome.

FT 13 Chiricahua Apache Ride Leader: Joe Saenz

See FT 7 description.

FT 14 Butterfly Way Restoration Project at Gila River Farm Leader: Patrice Mutchnick

Join this field trip to The Nature Conservancy's Lichty Center in the verdant Gila River Valley. A chance to visit two habitat restoration projects, one focused on restoring native plant communities and pollinators and the other on wetland, riverine restoration. Expect blooming wildflowers and a chance to visit Gila River floodplain forest. The Butterfly Way Project honors the lives of three teens who died in 2014 surveying the Gila National Forest: Michael Mahl, Ella Myers, and Ella Kirk. **Driving distance:** 40 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1 mile or less on flat trails. **Limit:** 20.

FT 15 Signal Peak Aspen Grove Leaders: Russ Kleinman and Scott Zager

Aspen Grove is a mountain meadow alongside a seasonal creek among pines and aspens. The habitat supports a diverse flora with several rare species. **Driving distance:** 20 miles; we will need to carpool in high-clearance 4WD vehicles. **Hiking distance:** Wandering around the area, less than a mile total, easy, though at 8000 feet elevation. **Limit:** 15.

FT 16 Bear Mountain Ocean Sediment Deposits and Associated Fossils Leader: Sylveen Robinson Cook

We will walk along a creekside gravel road for the first leg to see large ammonite fossils along the road cut. We will then walk uphill along a trail to observe ocean sediments and associated coral and bivalve fossils. The elevation vantage will allow regional geology observations and discussions. **Driving distance:** 6 miles on paved and graded gravel/dirt roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1–2 miles, moderate. **Limit:** 15.

FT 17 Cheery Cherry Creek Leader: Donna Stevens

At 6800 feet in elevation, cool and shady Cherry Creek Campground is home to both riparian and uplands trees, shrubs, and vines, including Arizona Walnut, Narrowleaf Cottonwood, two or three species of oaks and pines, Arizona Honeysuckle, Velvet Ash, Smooth Sumac, and many more. An uncommon tree found in this area is Hawthorn. With any luck (read: rain), there will be numerous wildflowers along Cherry Creek. Plant list provided. **Driving distance:** 14 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than two miles round-trip; moderate, some uneven terrain, some small stream crossings. **Limit:** 15.

WSE Eat Desert First! Native Edible Plants for Our Diets Facilitators: Kristen Lundgren and Adrienne Booth

This interactive workshop at the Volunteer Center will cover the basics of native edible plants in the high desert that we can begin to (re)incorporate into our diets. We will start with a lecture-style wild food overview and then we will be bringing participants down into Pinos Altos creek by the Volunteer Center to scavenge and potentially harvest. We'll finish back in our kitchen preparing native edible plants into some tasty dishes. Plan for some sitting and talking, a gentle walk through the creek (good shoes and water), and food preparation (hair ties, hats, scarves to pull hair back). **Limit:** 20. **Cost:** No fee; donations are welcome.

WS F Grasses Around Town: A Walking Delight Facilitator: Kelly Allred

A jubilant look at the grasses at our feet and all around us, for the fledgling novice and the skilled expert alike. We will tell captivating grass stories, gleefully dismember spikelet parts, and scrutinize the obscure and esoteric with aplomb. Bring a hand lens and pencil and paper. **Limit:** 10.

WS G Plant Specimen Mounting and Tour of Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium—9:00–11:00 am

Facilitators: Angela Flanders and Jane Spinti

See WS A description.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in the WNMU cafeteria

1:30–2:15 pm Olivia J. Messinger Carril, co-author of *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees*
Break

Concurrent sessions:

2:30–3:00 pm **1. A "Special Botanical Area" Proposal for the Gila National Forest** Patrice Mutchnick

2. Native Plant Society Outreach Updates Sara Digby

3:00–3:30 pm **1. Oshá (*Ligusticum porteri*), the Most Sacred Medicinal Plant of the Gila** Kelly Kindscher

2. The Effects of Reverse Osmosis Concentrate as a Water Source on *Atriplex canescens* and *Atriplex lentiformis* Sarah Cerra

3:30–4:00 pm **1. Adventure Education and Environmental Literacy of the 21st-Century College Student**

Kathy Whiteman

2. NPSNM-sponsored student projects Coordinator Sara Digby

4:00–4:30 pm **1. The Trouble with Tamarisk** Donna Stevens

2. Local Flora Highlights Russ Kleinman

4:30–5:00 pm **1. The Yerba Mansa Project: Community-Driven Native Plant Restoration and Education in the Bosque** Dara Saville

2. Mimbres Exploitation of Native Copper within the Gila National Forest Christopher Adams

6:00–8:00 pm Banquet in WNMU cafeteria

Guest Speaker Jack L. Carter, **A Thank-You Note to So Many New Mexico Friends**

Presentation of Jack & Martha Carter Native Plant Conservation Award

Sunday, September 9

Field Trips start 8:00 am unless otherwise indicated. Many of the field trips on Sunday range farther afield and you may want to pack a lunch. Nos. 19, 20, and 21 might be on your route home if you are heading east on I-10 or route 26; No. 22 if you are heading northwest on route 180; or Nos. 23 to 26 if you are planning to head east over the mountains on route 152.

FT 18 Plant Diversity in the Pinos Alto Range Leader: Patrice Mutchnick

A field trip focused on the diversity of species found just north of Silver City, in the Pinos Altos Range. From mosses to ferns and juniper to fir, this shaded walk along one of the Gila's perennial waterways offers a chance to see the beauty and range of vegetation in the Gila. **Driving distance:** 11 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2.5 miles, rocky road bed, established trail, some incline. **Limit:** 12.

FT 19 Birds and Botany at City of Rocks State Park Leaders: Tony Godfrey, William Norris, and Tim Geddes

Participants will visit a relatively new acquisition to City of Rocks State Park: a cienega. This low, wet basin contains open wetlands (one dominated by chairmaker's bulrush, the other by saltgrass, rush, and other graminoids) as well as a Goodding's willow grove. This wetland oasis, surrounded on all sides by dry desert vegetation, is the home of owls, red-tailed hawks, sora rails, blackbirds, and many other bird species. **Driving distance:** 30 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2 miles along a well-maintained but occasionally rough loop trail. **Limit:** 20.

FT 20 Chihuahuan Summer: Mahoney Park in the Florida Mountains Leader: Gene Jercinovic

A botanical foray into Mahoney Park in the foothills of the Florida Mountains. The leader is Gene Jercinovic, who lives in Deming and has spent the last 15 years studying, collecting, and photographing the plants of the Floridas

and surrounding areas. **Driving distance:** 67 miles (15 miles south of Deming); the last 4 miles are on a dirt road with a few rough spots, but high-clearance vehicles are not required. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 3–4 miles round-trip, easy to moderate. **Limit:** 25.

FT 21 Pony Hills Petroglyphs Leaders: Edwin and Beth Leuck

A trip to a large array of readily accessible sandstone petroglyphs on BLM land off route 26 (it may be on your way home). The site is on the Butterfield Trail of the late 1850s and early 1860s and is about 8 miles west of old Fort Cummings. Really good photo opportunities. The petroglyphs are of varying degrees of complexity and date primarily from 600 to 1200 AD, with perhaps some as recent as 300 years ago. **Driving distance:** 50 miles of good pavement, 4 miles of decent gravel, and 3 miles of heavily eroded but topographically flat road requiring carpooling in high-clearance vehicles for that stretch. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Only a hundred yards up a moderate grade on a semblance of a trail; then scrambling around rocks to look at petroglyphs. **Limit:** 20.

FT 22 Mogollon Box Hike along the Gila Leader: Martha S. Cooper

We will hike in the shade of cottonwoods and willows along the river and adjacent floodplain terraces, stopping to look at plants and discussing how vegetation along the river corridor has changed over the past 30 years. **Driving distance:** 40 miles, the last 1.5 miles on gravel. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2–3 miles; the trail is mostly flat, uneven in places, with one hill to climb that has loose rocks. **Limit:** 15.

FT 23 Plants of Historic Fort Bayard and Grounds Leader: Richard Felger

The historic Fort Bayard and grounds preserves a substantial sample of native Gila Forest region fauna and flora. Also of interest are a diversity of trees planted on the grounds, including Coulter and Arizona cypress that are even reproducing. We will also see a broad range of native flora, and explore ethnobotanical and future agronomic uses. **Driving distance:** 9 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than 2 miles along paved and unpaved roads and some trails, all nearly level. **Limit:** 20.

FT 24 Mimbres Culture Heritage Site (MCHS) Leader: Marilyn Markel

A presentation about Mimbres Archaeology, pottery, and the Mattocks Ruin Archaeological Site with an emphasis on plants used by the ancient Mimbres People; followed by a tour of the site. If there is time, she will also tell the story of the historic houses and the archaeologists that have used, and still use, MCHS as their base camp while working on sites in the Mimbres. **Driving distance:** 26 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A little less than ½ mile, easy walking on an interpretive trail. **Limit:** 20.

FT 25 The Flora of Lake Roberts and Mimbres Ethnobotany Leader: Kelly Kindscher

We will walk along the trail on the south side of Lake Roberts, along and among rocky cliffs and small meadows and the edge of Lake Roberts, a 70-acre lake created in the Sapillo Creek valley of the Gila National Forest. The area is rich in plant species, with a list of almost 500 species in the immediate area, which will be provided to participants. With Mimbres ruins around the area (Vista Village and many others) we will also talk about the wild plants that the Mimbres used, or likely used, for food and medicine. **Driving distance:** 47 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1.5–2 miles round-trip; fairly level, with some rocky areas, no water crossings. **Limit:** 15.

FT 26 Railroad Canyon in the Black Range Leaders: Russ Kleinman and Bob Sivinski

Railroad Canyon is a recovering upper-elevation riparian area in the Black Range off route 152 that was scoured by floodwaters a couple of years ago after the Silver Fire burned the surrounding forest. Along the way there we will visit the Nun Lookout, with great views but also some very interesting plants to see. **Driving distance:** 25 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Several miles, depth of creek permitting; some stream crossings, some loose rock but generally not steep. **Limit:** 15.

WS H Backyard Yoga Facilitator: Susie Vanderbeek—9:00 am–noon

A slow peaceful practice for anyBODY on the grass (*Bouteloua* sp.) among other flowering plants and a soundtrack provided by the birds and bees in the home garden of Jane Kruse. Embrace elements of the Gila and energy of the sun to focus awareness on nature and stabilize our own roots. Botany conversation and refreshments included. Bring your own mat if possible. **Driving distance:** 3.5 miles. **Limit:** 15.

For additional information, please visit

www.npsnm.org

**Plants, People, and Culture of the Gila
2018 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee OR register individually and pay online at www.npsnm.org

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----|
| Name | NPSNM Chapter | | |
| Address | City | State | Zip |
| E-mail Address | Home Phone | Mobile Phone | |

Included in conference fee: Snacks during conference breaks, Friday & Saturday lunches, Friday evening reception (appetizers & drinks), and Saturday evening banquet (cash bar available).

Meals are buffet style with meat and vegetarian choices.

List any special dietary needs _____

Field Trip/Workshop Preferences (Please register early; space is limited.)

Use numbers/letters listed for field trips/workshops:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Friday 9/7 1:30–3:30 pm | 1st Choice _____ | 2nd Choice _____ | 3rd Choice _____ |
| Saturday 9/8 8:00 am–noon | 1st Choice _____ | 2nd Choice _____ | 3rd Choice _____ |
| Sunday 9/9 starts 8 am | 1st Choice _____ | 2nd Choice _____ | 3rd Choice _____ |

| Registration Date | NPSNM Member | Non-Member | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Before August 1 | \$100 | \$130 | |
| During August | \$115 | \$145 | |
| After September 1 (no meals included) | \$125 | \$160 | TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ |

**Any questions, call Jane Kruse 575/574-8152.
Send form(s) with check (payable to Gila Native Plant Society) to:
Gila Native Plant Society
PO Box 457
Silver City, NM 88062**

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM state conference. The Gila chapter invites you to donate items that might be of interest to other members. To offer an item, please contact Curtis Shimp—clshimp@q.com

Discover (continued from p. 8)

Nathan Newcomer will give us a fine example of citizen science in action. For the past four years, Nathan and a team of dedicated volunteers have been on the ground conducting inventories of lands and waters in the Gila National Forest that they believe qualify for wilderness designation.

Richard Felger, noted botanist, and his collaborators are growing and demonstrating that native perennial grains and tree crops can constitute viable crops in the modern era. As Richard explains, “The Desert is food, the River is food, the Mountains are food—more than 250 species of edible plants. Let’s look at the staples from the past, the present, and the future for local gardens to sustainable agriculture, a model for the World.”

Opening our Saturday afternoon presentations, Olivia Messinger Carril, co-author of *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America’s Bees*, will help us understand the relationship between plants, bees, and people. As she explains in her book, “A first step in helping our tiny pollinators is understanding them. When we are armed with information, a good rallying cry, and the support of the many, bees stand every chance of being welcome, beneficial and integral parts of our neighborhoods.”

For our banquet speaker, we are delighted that we have been able to lure Jack L. Carter, professor emeritus of Colorado College, back to the Gila region he spent many years exploring and defending. As NPSNM members know, the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund is named after those two tireless supporters of conservation. Jack Carter once said, “The larger society does not understand the connection between plants, people, and all life on earth, and they are not being reached.”

Our program features speaker presentations Friday morning and Saturday afternoon, with workshops and field trips offered on Friday afternoon and Saturday and Sunday mornings. A reception will be held early Friday evening at the Gomez Peak picnic area in the national forest five miles up Little Walnut Road. If we are lucky with the summer rains, there may be post-monsoon wildflowers and, incidentally, some good birding nearby. Lunch will be provided on Friday and Saturday in the cafeteria in the Student Memorial Building on the WNMU campus. The Saturday night banquet will also be held in the cafeteria. (When you register, we will provide you with a map of the campus.) Reception, lunches, and the banquet are all included in the registration fee. ❖



Middle Box area of the Gila River. Photo: Elroy Limmer

New Mexico Close-Up: Elkweed, Monument Plant (*Frasera speciosa*)

by Lisa Mandelkern, Las Cruces Chapter

In mid-June of 2014 our botanizing inclination took us to the Sacramento Mountains in Southern New Mexico. By sheer luck we drove by an open wooded slope where hundreds of “Monument Plants” bloomed. We had to stop and take a closer look.

Most plants were an impressive four to five feet high and were stacked with beautiful four-lobed flowers. Later at home, we surfed the net and learned that *Frasera speciosa*

belongs to the Gentian Family. The flower stalk grows in one season. Each flower petal has two oval nectar pits. We saw much insect activity on our plants, such as ants, bumblebees, and lady beetles. One broadtail hummingbird kept visiting the plants for a sugary drink. ❖

See photos on back cover!

Outreach Update

by Sara Digby, NPSNM Outreach Coordinator

Spring has sprung! I looked down at my front entryway this morning and saw two brilliantly blue flowers poking out of the mulch. Winters here are confusing, but that seems to be the MO here in New Mexico, and I'm happy to feel spring in the air regardless of a warmer winter here in Santa Fe.

I recently returned from a visit down to Silver City for

the Natural History of the Gila Symposium, as well as to meet with the Gila chapter. What a conference they have in the works! Great speakers, workshops, and field trips—something not to miss this year! The Gila is truly one of my favorite places to visit in New Mexico. The sounds of the river running, the birds, and the unique ecosystems that surround the area, what a vibrant place to live. I was able to post some great photos and updates on Instagram and Facebook while I was there.

Speaking of social media, did you know that the NPSNM has both a Facebook and an Instagram account now? If you are on either, make sure to like and follow us for updates on events, fun photos, and interesting articles. Also, if you are interested in contributing to our social media, please email me at sara@appliedeco.org with photos, stories, or articles you think would be of value for our community. Facebook: www.facebook.com/NPSNM; Instagram: [npsnm](https://www.instagram.com/npsnm)

I've been working hard on getting the foundation laid for many of the goals for 2018. An email was recently sent to all members with a sneak peek at some of the exciting things that are to come this year. If you haven't read it, here's a peek at what is in the works: Native Plant Podcasts, State Video, Fun Workshops and Events, and more! *Stay tuned as we announce our Native Plant Photo Contest in a couple of months.*

There have also been some changes in the works. As you visit the website you will notice it has been updated with a new colorful format, and much of the content has been shifted and broken out in hopes that it will be easier for our community to navigate. If you have any trouble or questions, feel free to email me!

As always, happy to chat with folks on any outreach ideas you may have, and I look forward to seeing all the beautiful wildflowers that are soon to bloom. ❖



Antelope horns milkweed, *Asclepias asperula*.

Photo: Elroy Limmer

Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico will make it possible for the Board to approve more funding for workshops throughout the state, additional basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and hopefully for the development and sup-

port of more early education programs from K–12 in New Mexico schools.

Use the form provided below, or contribute through PayPal on the website, www.npsnm.org. Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.
~Jack & Martha Carter

JACK & MARTHA CARTER CONSERVATION FUND DONATION FORM

Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora! Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

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All contributions are tax-deductible as provided under the law.

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For further information, call Tom Stewart at 505/373-8779.

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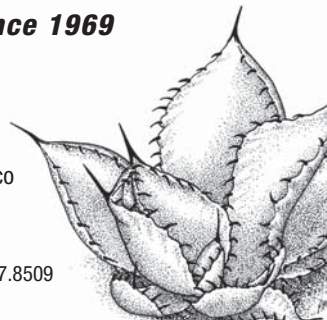
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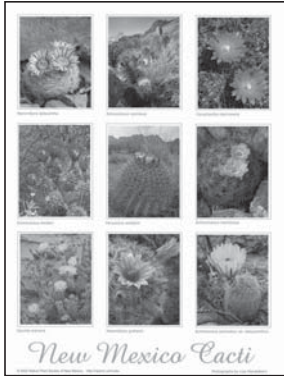


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Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve 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. The Society has also produced a New Mexico wildflower poster by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair—check out <http://www.npsnm.org/posters/>



Wildflower poster: 22"×34", \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)
Cactus poster: 18"×24", \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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Telephone _____

E-Mail/Fax _____

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque | <input type="checkbox"/> Otero (Alamogordo) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso, TX | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gila (Silver City) | <input type="checkbox"/> Taos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Las Cruces | <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I am interested in forming a new chapter in:</i> | |

| Annual Dues: | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | 45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of the Society | 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | 125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income, Teachers, Students, and Seniors (65+) | 15 |

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

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



Make your check payable to

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New Mexico Close-Up



Elkweed, Monument Plant, *Frasera speciosa*
Photos: Lisa Mandelkern, Las Cruces chapter

See article on page 17!