



# NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2019

VOL. XXXIV NO. 1

## And the Photo Contest Winners Are . . .



FIRST PLACE—ADULT

John Whitman (Taos): Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



FIRST PLACE—YOUTH

Levi O'Neil (Albuquerque):  
Sunflower

(Sadly, a print-size version of Levi's photo was not available. Please visit [www.npsnm.org/summer-photo-contest/](http://www.npsnm.org/summer-photo-contest/) to see both first-place photos.)

## And the Runners-Up . . . (see back page)

Clockwise from top left:

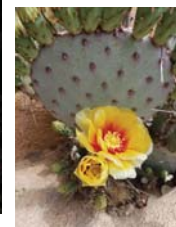
Dasmonda Allen (Otero): Claret cup cactus  
(*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*)

Norma Camilliere (Las Cruces): Datura (*Datura wrightii*)

Christina M. Selby (Santa Fe): Whole-leaf paintbrush  
(*Castilleja integra*)

Rose Marie Kern (Albuquerque): Prickly pear (*Optunia*)

Richard G. McCarthy, Jr. (Gila): Nightblooming Cereus  
(*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)



## From the President

by Tom Stewart

Happy new year! I hope you will all thrive and prosper in the months to come. Actually, I began thinking about what to write in this column right after Thanksgiving, settling on that very theme, gratitude. I am indeed grateful for your gift to me of the presidency of this organization for the last two years, and all the support that has come with it.

They say that the only thing you can count on is change, and your Native Plant Society is not one to buck that law of nature. Our great contributors come and go. An example is Pam McBride, who has served as both state recording secretary and state treasurer, has a lifetime membership, and now gets a chance to step off the board while remaining active in the Albuquerque chapter. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Pam.

It seems like yesterday when I welcomed Sara Digby, the best outreach coordinator we have ever had. All right, she is also our first outreach coordinator, and for the last two years she has helped us develop ways of reaching and inspiring new audiences with our message. Her initiatives in social media, a new brochure, this year's photo contest, and a website makeover have all polished our public presence.



We wish her the best as she moves on to full-time work elsewhere.

Sara has taught us something else—coloring books are not just for kids anymore! Her latest contribution is likely to become a classic, as did our wildflower posters in years past. Please read more about it in her final Outreach column in this issue. I happily picture a parent and child coloring and reading together, and maybe starting to recognize and name some of the plants they find outdoors.

On a sadder note, we deeply regret the passing of Charles Holmes, a dear and highly regarded figure in the Silver City community and former Gila chapter representative to the state board. Please read more about him elsewhere in this issue. We have tremendous gratitude for members like Charles, generous of heart, whose gifts to us last a lifetime.

And I am grateful for our creative and motivated members who contribute in original ways without any prompting. For instance, with growing concern over monarch butterflies, Las Cruces member Marcia Corley has remarkably pulled together a guide to New Mexico milkweed species from existing, online sources. This booklet is taking its place alongside Bob Sivinski's now-famous thistle guide and several native plant gardening guides developed by the membership, in the Books section of our website.

Thanks go to Rachel Jankowitz for her analyses and thoughtful comments on government plans and pronouncements, personifying our “voice for native plants” in the public sector. Meanwhile, devoted members like Patrice Mutchnik, Sue Small, Jim McGrath, and others are regularly attending public meetings, National Forest collaboratives, and roundtables, elevating the profile of NPSNM in the community and with federal land managers.

A very special feeling comes from the ability to support with our grants the good works of researchers, habitat rehabilitators, educators, herbaria, and others through the Carter Conservation Fund. We are grateful to those who created the fund, to Jack and Martha Carter for inspiring it, and especially to its generous donors.

Many others do not have the time to do outwardly spectacular things, but provide the foundation for all else by renewing their membership each year. I am referring to all of you who know you can enjoy our free programs and field trips and make use of our online resources whether you pay dues or not. With the numerous nonprofit groups begging for your loyalty, you support the single New Mexico organization that explicitly stands up for our native floral heritage. Thank you! ❖

### Inside This Issue

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## Grant Opportunity for Taos County Educators

by Jan Martenson, Taos Chapter

The Taos chapter of NPSNM is offering two \$250 grants in 2019 for education relating to native plants in the fields of botany, biology, or ecology. We are committed to helping local educators ignite students' love and appreciation of botany and native plants. The focus of proposed projects can cover, but is not limited to, the following: effects of invasive or non-native plants on native plant communities; environmental factors affecting native plants, such as drought or native pollinators; restoration ecology; and conservation biology.

School teachers or educators in non-profit organizations in Taos County are invited to apply by submitting a proposal for a teacher/student project, keeping in mind the mission of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (see page 4 of this newsletter).

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2019. The Taos chapter executive board will review all submissions; successful applicants will be notified by April 15. To apply, see [www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/taos/](http://www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/taos/). ❖

## Charles Holmes

March 21, 1932–September 22, 2018

by Betty Spence, Gila Chapter

Those of you who knew him will be saddened to learn that Charles Holmes has died. Charles was a very active member of the Gila Native Plant Society and was instrumental in starting the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. For many years he edited the GNPS *Bulletin*, led field trips, and represented the Gila chapter on the NPSNM board.

Those who would like to may make a donation in his name to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund. You may do this through the NPSNM website; visit <https://www.npsnm.org/conservation/carter-conservation-fund/>. ❖



Charles botanizing in the Gila country he adored.

## Native Plant Photo Contest: The Envelopes, Please!

### First Place—Adult Category

**John Whitman (Taos): Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia lacinata*)**

John writes: “Two *Gnophaela latipenni* (white-spotted black diurnal moths) not yet dry enough to take flight from a dew-laden bloom of cut-leaf coneflower. Finley and Nieland write that ‘the Cherokee ate the leaves as spring greens, but note that the plant may be toxic if consumed in large quantities. The Navajo used it to treat indigestion and colds.’”

**Prize:** Featured photo and recognition in Native Plant Society publications; photo featured and recognition on website and social media; \$150 cash prize; 1 year waived for membership dues; subscription to *New Mexico Magazine*.

### First Place—Youth Category

**Levi O’Neil (Albuquerque): Sunflower**

Levi writes that this photo was taken in a field of sunflowers.

**Prize:** Featured photo and recognition in Native Plant Society publications; photo featured and recognition on website and social media; \$50 cash prize; 1 year waived for membership dues; scholarship to the next annual NPS con-

ference; tutorial lesson in nature photography with a master photographer.

*The two first-place photos can be seen online: [www.npsnm.org/summer-photo-contest/](http://www.npsnm.org/summer-photo-contest/)*

### Runners-Up

**Rose Marie Kern (Albuquerque): Prickly pear (*Optunia*)**

Rose Marie writes: “This hardy prickly pear cactus resides against an adobe wall by my front gate. It bloomed profusely this spring, attracting hundreds of bees, who flitted from flower to flower like tiny fairy children. If you look hard enough you can envision Titania, Shakespeare’s queen of the fairy kingdom, enthroned upon this prickly pear blossom with her Indian Changeling by her side.”

**Richard G. McCarthy, Jr. (Gila): Nightblooming Cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)**

Richard writes: “I moved to Hidalgo County from the East Coast in 2015. One of my hobbies is photographing unusual plants in habitat and one of my target species was *Penioce-*

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### The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

January–March 2019. Vol. 44 No. 1. 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 March 1, 2019.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, *sarita [at] gilanet.com*, or PO Box 53, Cliff, NM 88028.

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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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

### Lincoln National Forest Planning Comments

NPSNM responded to a request for public comment on the Lincoln NF's Draft Assessment of Sustainability Conditions and Trends, Volume 1—Ecological, which is part of the planning process leading toward an updated Forest Plan. The stated purpose of the Assessment is to rapidly evaluate readily available existing information about relevant ecological, economic, and social conditions, trends, and sustainability and their relationship to the current Land and Resource Management Plan, within the context of the broader landscape, as required by the USDA Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule. Our comment consisted of two parts: a letter discussing the information contained in the Draft Assessment report; and specific notes in regard to the Species of Conservation Concern lists by Jim McGrath, a botanist with field experience conducting plant surveys on the Lincoln NF who belongs to the Albuquerque chapter and is on the NPSNM Conservation Committee.

NPSNM expressed support for the general forest planning approach of defining historic ranges of spatial and temporal variability by Ecological Response Unit (vegetation cover type) and aiming to restore a similar range of conditions. We also appreciate that the Lincoln NF has utilized the findings of the regional Forest Service Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to develop a view of potential future conditions informed by the best available science. This conceptual framework can provide a solid basis for decisions about restoration priorities and other management actions.

However, the ability of land managers to influence Forest conditions toward a desired state is undermined by a lack of information documenting current conditions. Areas where the Draft Assessment report indicates inadequate or obsolete data include invasive weeds, riparian corridor condition, and terrestrial vegetation communities. The new Forest Plan would be an appropriate venue to identify and prioritize these and other data gaps. We also encouraged the Lincoln to continue exploring options to combat white pine blister rust, including engagement with the research community, monitoring the infestation status, management of natural resistance evolution, and potentially, in high-value stands at high risk, planting nursery-bred or selected resistant seedlings, and pruning.

And, we reiterated our concern with the 2012 Planning Rule procedure for establishing the Species of Conservation Concern list. Rare plants should not be eliminated from consideration as SCC due to lack of documented occur-

rences on the Forest, or insufficient information about their status and trend. Rather, such species should be included on a supplemental list, and prioritized for field surveys to evaluate their occurrence and status. We requested that the Forest Service continue to work closely with the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Forestry Division's Endangered Plant Program Coordinator on all issues related to special status species. The full comment letter can be viewed on the NPSNM website (scroll down to the Conservation Letters button).

### BLM Carlsbad Planning Comments

NPSNM also sent a letter in response to the Bureau of Land Management request for public comment on the Carlsbad Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The updated Plan will replace an existing 1988 Plan. It is intended to provide a comprehensive framework for managing public lands and mineral estate in portions of Eddy, Lea, and Chaves Counties, southeastern New Mexico.

BLM staff have been working on the new RMP since at least 2011. This effort has resulted in a Draft RMP/EIS that does indeed seem to be comprehensive. However, it is also voluminous, many terms are poorly defined, and the whole thing is not organized in a way that would provide easy access to the information therein by persons not already familiar with the document. The four Action Alternatives are given narrative theme descriptions, but, other than Alternative D, which would maximize commercial development, it is not consistently made clear in what way the specific proposals in each alternative correspond to those themes. Similarly, it is not always clear what management policies are associated with the No Action alternative. Action Alternative C was identified as the BLM Preferred Alternative. NPSNM recommends that a new or modified alternative be developed, incorporating those elements of Action Alternatives A, B, and C that would best facilitate progress toward the conservation of native plants and plant communities.

Cross-country off-highway vehicle travel is harmful to vegetation both directly and through soil compaction and generation of dust. As best we can tell from the draft RMP/EIS document, the Carlsbad FO intends to conduct a separate travel management planning process, subsequent to approval of the new RMP. NPSNM supports the need for comprehensive travel management planning, and limiting

*Continued page 6*

**Conservation Corner** (continued from p. 5)

OHVs to existing routes until that potentially lengthy process is completed.

NPSNM supports identification as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or other related designation, for locations whose specified values include rare plants or plant communities, in order to facilitate identifying and implementing management measures for their conservation. Some of the Action Alternatives propose the consolidation of existing special designated areas into new ACECs. The conservation implications of doing so are not explained in the draft document, but it does seem logical that consolidation could result in more efficient management for the conservation of important values.

Wetlands, including riparian corridors, constitute rare and valuable habitat in arid environments. NPSNM supports management policies that would protect these habitats from adverse impact. Policies proposed under the various RMP Alternatives, which would accomplish needed protections, include establishing a Playas Management Plan; No Surface Occupancy for a buffer zone around playas and seeps and springs; grazing and OHV closures where tamarisk treatments have made river banks newly accessible to cattle and motorized vehicles; and nominating all suitable river reaches for Wild and Scenic designation.

A very large proportion of the surface area managed by the Carlsbad FO is already under lease for oil and gas development. Since lease stipulations can't be imposed retroactively, NPSNM encourages the BLM to use the strongest available Conditions of Approval and Best Management Practices to minimize adverse impact to vegetation resources. The full comment letter can be viewed on the NPSNM website (scroll down to the Conservation Letters button).

**Native or Not: Woodbine**

Some questions have a satisfying yes-or-no answer. Whether or not the woody vine *Parthenocissus* (in Vitaceae, the grape family) is native to NM, turns out to be more of an essay question.

So, down that rabbit hole. First, I consulted the authorities. According to Allred's *Flora Neomexicana*, there are two species here, one of which, *P. inserta* (synonym *P. vitacea*), is native. The other, *P. quinquefolia*, native to the eastern and central states, is strictly ornamental in NM and "not yet [as of 2012] documented from the wild." The *Intermountain Flora* (Volume III, 1997) states that *P. quinquefolia* has "casually escaped from cultivation here and there," referring to the entire intermountain region, not just our state. The USDA Plants website shows *P. vitacea* native to about half the counties in NM, and *P. quinquefolia* not occurring in

NM but native to adjacent counties of CO and UT. Most people know *Parthenocissus* in general as Virginia creeper, a name properly ascribed to *P. quinquefolia*. The native species has various common names (including Virginia creeper). We will call it woodbine.

How to distinguish the two species? If the situation described in *Flora Neomexicana* still obtains, the woodbine in the Española Rio Grande bosque (which still qualifies as a natural area, and where *Parthenocissus* is present but not common) should presumably be different from the creeper in my Española yard (where it straddles a border between ornamental and invasive). Accordingly, I collected specimens from those locations, one growing on a *Forestiera* shrub and one from a cottonwood trunk in the bosque, one from a fence in my front yard and one growing up a wall. Neither presumptive "wild" specimen had flowered; both "cultivated" ones had berries. To expand my little collection I also checked the Southwest Environmental Information Network. All of the SEINET specimens that had photos posted were attributed to the *inserta* (or *vitacea*) species. Of the records called *P. quinquefolia*, only 9 out of 30 were collected from locations clearly indicating horticultural origins.

The most commonly cited distinction, from several sources, is the shape of the tendril tips, which are described as disk-like and adhesive for *quinquefolia* and as narrow, expanding to fit in crevices, for *inserta*. This distinction implies a functional difference in the climbing mechanism. The other oft-mentioned difference is the shape of the inflorescence, *quinquefolia* having a continuous central axis and *inserta* being dichotomously branched. Also, *quinquefolia* is described as having smaller berries and shorter leaflet petioles. However, one reference shows sessile petioles on the illustration of *inserta*. A website devoted to Minnesota wildflowers describes the most conspicuous differences as hairy leaf stems and surfaces (evident in their photographs) and more highly branched tendrils for *quinquefolia*.

One of my bosque specimens, from the tree trunk, did indeed exhibit expanded tendril tips. The other bosque creeper clung to the slender branches of the olive by twining the tendrils around them and apparently had no need or opportunity to expand its tips into bark crevices. Leaflet petioles were sessile to very short. The yard plant pulled off a wall had flattened tendril tips; the one on the fence climbs by wrapping around the chain-link fence wire and does not have disks. Leaflet petioles and berries were within the published range of overlap between the two species. The yard specimens did also have more highly branched tendrils. The size of petioles and mature berries on the SEINET *P. inserta* specimens varied from plant to plant, but most were within

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## Saving More Than an Endangered Plant

by John Oberhausen

What can one person do to save an endangered species? Maybe not much, but what can two people do? Fifteen years ago, two Eldorado residents decided to save an endangered local cactus called the Santa Fe cholla (*Cylindropuntia viridiflora*). To that end, they formed a grassroots organization called the Cactus Rescue Project (CRP).

Most residents have now heard of the group, as CRP members have put in cactus gardens at the Eldorado Community Improvement Association community center and at La Tienda, adopted our Vista Grande median, and hosted many cactus classes and events promoting the use of all cactus in our xeric landscapes. But their efforts to save the Santa Fe cholla go beyond planting it in a few gardens and promoting its use in private gardens. In order to truly save the cactus, they needed to reestablish it in nature.

A few years ago, they met the state botanist, Daniela Roth, who is responsible for endangered plants in the state of NM. They all decided to work together to save the plant.

About four years ago, with backing from the Eldorado Conservation Committee, a colony of 400 plants was planted in the Eldorado preserve. These were GPS marked and documented so that the state could monitor them annually to check on their survival. The project drew community volunteers who helped with the planting. Another two colonies were planted at sites within Santa Fe city limits as well.

The Eldorado site has done so well that another colony of 200 plants was started this past summer, again with sup-

port of the Eldorado conservation committee, under the guidance of the state botanist and CRP, and again with the help of numerous local volunteers. The work that went into this new colony included growing the 200 plants, making cage components and then reassembling them at the site, planting, mounding, tagging, and recording them. Between CRP time and volunteer time we estimated that the project took about 100 hours, all of it volunteered time and effort.

The state botanist was quoted as saying, “Well, this is rapidly becoming the most ambitious conservation project in the state of New Mexico! Better yet, it’s all based on volunteer effort! Congratulations! If all endangered plant projects would receive such enthusiastic input from the community, we would not have any endangered plants and I could just focus on research.”

Through the efforts of CRP and all the community volunteers, this cactus has a chance to make it off the NM endangered species list! This project has become a community effort and Eldorado residents should be proud of their participation in this great cause. ❖

### Photo Contest (continued from p. 3)

*reus*. As a result of my research I was expecting to have to spend many hours and miles in order to locate this cryptic species in the wild. Imagine my surprise when I discovered a very old, mature specimen right on my property! No blooms the first year but there were 17 buds the following spring. Needless to say, I practically camped out in order to not miss the spectacular blooms of this nocturnally blooming cactus, Queen of the Night.

**Norma Camilliere (Las Cruces): *Datura (Datura wrightii)***  
Norma writes: “The sacred datura blossom has long captivated artists and poets. It appears in paintings by the famed artist Georgia O’Keefe. It may have been the plant she had in mind when she said, ‘When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it’s your world for the moment.’”

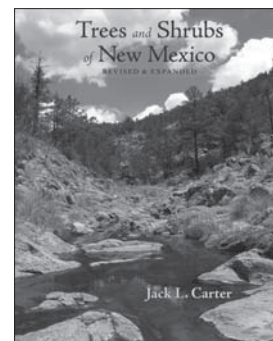
Continued page 11

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The Gila Native Plant Society is committed to promoting the education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the southwest; encouraging the preservation of rare and endangered plant species; and supporting the use of suitable native plants in landscaping.

## 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 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.

**Jan 2** Meeting. Wildflowers of Socorro County. Tim Hankins, New Mexico Tech emeritus professor of physics and avid wildflower photographer.

**Feb 6** Meeting. Light, Cameras, Actions: Using Color, Imagery, and Observational Phenology Data in Aridlands. Alesia Hallmark, PhD student, University of New Mexico.

**Mar 6** Meeting. BLM New Mexico Plant Conservation and Restoration Program. Zoe Davidson, BLM NM State Botanist, and Ella Samuel, BLM Plant Conservation Program Specialist.

### 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. Nonmembers always welcome. Info: John White, 575-640-7555; [jmwhite \[at\] utep.edu](mailto:jmwhite@utep.edu).

**Jan 10** Meeting. West Texas Wildflowers. Michael Easton, botanist, author of *Wildflowers of West Texas*.

**Feb 14** Meeting. Climate Changes. David DuBois, PhD, State Climatologist, New Mexico State University, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

**Mar 14** Meeting. From Continental-Scale Migration to Flo-

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.

ral Nectaries: Examining the Influence of Food Plants on the Distribution of Migratory Nectarivorous Bats. Rachel Burke, Terrestrial Vegetation Monitoring Crew Leader, Southwest Conservation Corps/Bureau of Land Management.

### 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.

**Jan 18** Meeting. Know the Trees II: Twigs, Cones and Fruit. Workshop by Richard Felger and William (Bill) Norris.

**Feb 15** Meeting. Seed Gathering and Propagation of Native Plants. Tricia Hurley.

**Mar 15** Meeting. Moths of the Gila National Forest and Vicinity. Ron Parry.

### 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.

**Jan 23** Meeting. Recent Research on Vegetables. Ivette Guzman, assistant professor, Environmental Sciences.

**Jan 26** Field Trip. Leasburg Dam State Park. Meet 9 a.m. at former K-Mart parking lot, east end by Hwy 70.

**Feb 27** Meeting. New Mexico's Native Pollinators. Carol Sutherland, State Entomologist.

**Mar 2** Field Trip. Picacho Peak. Meet 9 a.m., Fairacres Post



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**Mar 27** Meeting. Early Spring Wildflowers of Our Area. Lisa Mandelkern.

**Mar 30** Field Trip. Bajada of Tortugas Mountain. Meet 9 a.m., First National Bank 1870, corner University/Telshor.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert [at] gmail.com, 575/443-4408; or Jennifer Gruger, jengruger [at] gmail.com, 505/710-2924. More info will be available by the beginning of each month.

**Jan 12** Presentations by NMSU student grant winners Rachel Burke on bat pollination of agave and Leeland Murray on Tamarisk removal and Tamarisk beetle studies. 10 a.m., Unitarian Church, Alamogordo. Location subject to change.

**Feb 9** Field trip. Presentations by NMSU student grant winners and a discussion on citizen science. 10 a.m., Unitarian Church, Alamogordo. Location subject to change.

**Mar 23** Field trip. White Sands National Monument. Presentation and walk with biologist David Bustos. We will look at the strange and unique way cottonwood trees function within the dunes. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the administration building (across the street from the visitor center).

### 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). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

**Jan 16** Meeting. The Beauty of Native Shrubs and Trees for Waterwise Landscapes. David Salman, chief horticulturist for High Country Gardens.

**Feb 20** Meeting. The penstemon gardens at the Los Alamos Nature Center. Larry Deaven, retiree from Los Alamos National Laboratory, has been growing a limited number of penstemons for over 30 years. Since 2015, he has planted approximately 2,500 penstemons at the Nature Center—120 species, subspecies, or varieties, and 25 cultivars.

**Mar 20** Meeting. Topic/speaker TBD.

### Taos

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

**Jan-Feb** No meetings.

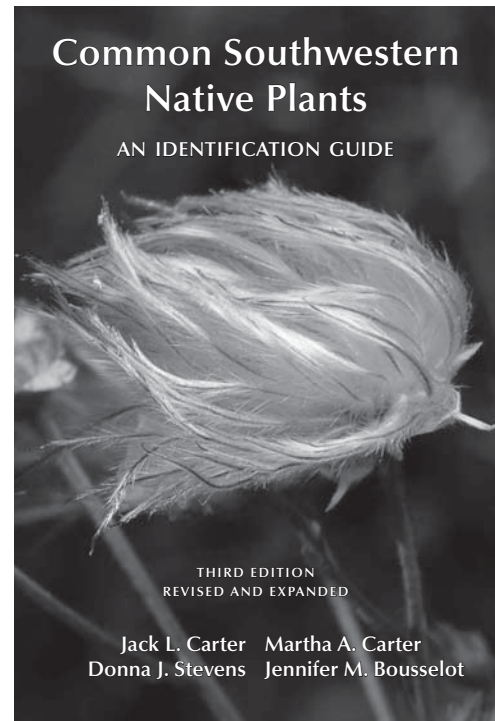
**Mar 20** Meeting. Taos Land Trust and Rio Fernando Park: What's Going On? Staff of Taos Land Trust.

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## Outreach Update

by Sara Digby, NPSNM Outreach Coordinator

### This isn't goodbye . . .

The time is here: my two years as outreach coordinator have come to an end. I want to thank each person I met in the NPSNM for introducing me to a corner of New Mexico that is truly unique and beautiful—a hidden gem that many people never get to experience. However, I'm not saying goodbye! Although my role will shift, I still plan to be involved and am excited to see what the Society does with the "seeds" I've planted. There are so many ways to get people excited about native plants.

To wrap it up, here are a few great recent successes I would love to share with you all.

### Southern Native Plant Workshops—Forest Bound

In conjunction with the NPSNM/Institute for Applied Ecology partnership for Forest Bound, IAE's outdoor program for high school-age youth, the institute was awarded a NPSNM grant to provide workshops in the southern region of the state. This forged partnerships with other organizations and exposed youth who might not yet have an opportunity to attend summer sessions to native plant ecology and native seed. We focused on native seed collection, cleaning, plant collection, and plant pressing, providing opportunities for youth to engage with seeds in ways they may not have previously. This project provided three workshops, in Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Anthony, NM. By providing our southern workshops we were able to specifically create connections with NMSU's Upward Bound program in both Alamogordo and Las Cruces. Upward Bound coordinators

were very impressed with our curriculum as well as the workshops and are eager to continue partnerships in other capacities. Additionally, our Anthony workshop created a connection with the organization La Semilla. This has benefited both IAE and the NPSNM, as information for both organizations is always provided at these workshops, making them a great outreach opportunity. We reached a total of over 60 youth participants and 6 educators. Overall, it was a great success, and we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

### Podcast Complete!

If you haven't heard, the NPSNM's first podcast was completed and is available for listening (along with other great informational videos from the Taos chapter) at <https://www.npsnm.org/videos/>.

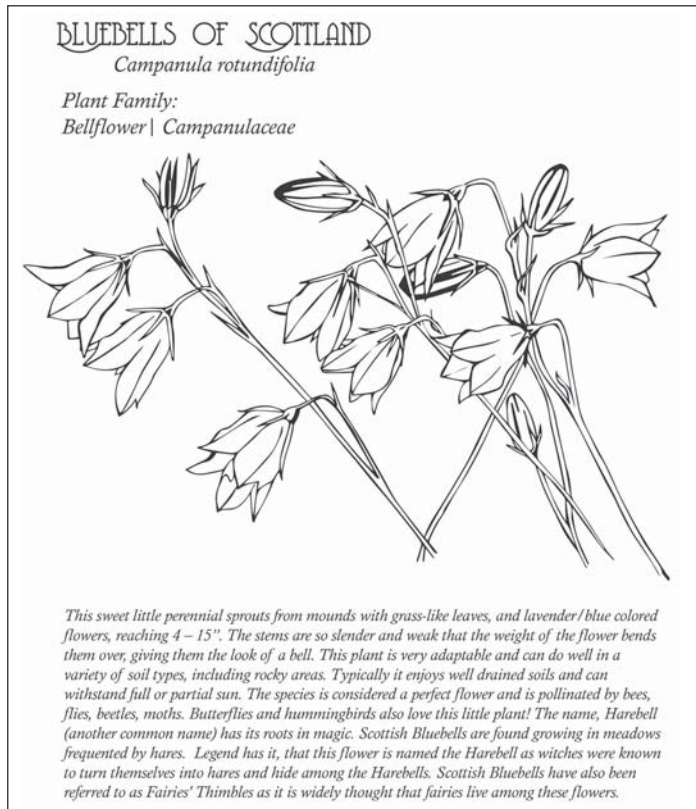
### Need a Great Gift Idea?

Our Native Plant Coloring Book, a perfect gift for all ages, has been a real success. Over 150 books have been ordered already and we are racing to keep up. The book features beautiful illustrations of native plants, created by 29 artists from throughout the state. Alongside each picture is information about the plant's natural coloring and the environmental conditions in which it grows. Each page also features botanical terms and other information, so you and your coloring partners can learn while you color. You can take a peek at the illustrations and put in a pre-order at [www.npsnm.org/native-plant-coloring-book/](http://www.npsnm.org/native-plant-coloring-book/). The books are \$10 each, and proceeds support student and intern scholarships for the NPSNM annual conference. Thanks for your support!



*Continued next page*

At left, a scene from NPSNM/IAE's seed workshop. Photo: Lourdes Ambriz. Facing page: A page from *The Colors of New Mexico: Native Plant Coloring Book*.

**Outreach Update** (continued)**Conservation Corner** (continued from p. 6)

the range attributed to *quinquefolia*. Some internet photos of *quinquefolia* do seem to have a central axis to the inflorescence, but my Española yard vines did not. No pictures or plants other than those on the Minnesota website had hairs, and I found no internet photos showing the tendril endings clearly enough to distinguish the shape. In short, except for the different shapes of the tendril tips, when they encounter the right substrate, all other phenotypic characteristics seem to be less than reliably consistent with published descriptions.

What to make of this somewhat murky situation? The short answer is yes, at least one species appears to be native to parts of NM. But we end with more questions than we started with. Has anyone studied the genetics of *Parthenocissus*? Might they be one and the same species, exhibiting a high degree of regional variation? The ability of the tendril tips to develop into disks or expansions seems to be a real physiological distinction. Both species occur in the eastern and central states, where their natural ranges either abut or overlap. If they are truly distinct species, how will we know if Virginia creeper escapes cultivation in NM, or has it already done so? Does it matter, since its very similar native cousin does not act invasive in riparian zones? ❖

**"Herbal Allies from a Bioregional Perspective" Workshop**

To wrap up my time as outreach coordinator I held three workshops, one each in Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Taos, on many of the native (and non-native) plants we find in New Mexico that can be used in our daily lives, as well as on the various ways to take those plants. We had a great turnout for each workshop. Participants truly seemed to enjoy themselves, and we all got to make a salve together.

It was wonderful to be able to tie in my passion for herbalism, as this is what I will be embarking on next. I have accepted a full-time position with the herbal company I currently work for, Artemisia Herbs. I will be managing production and the business and am very excited to see where that leads. If you are interested in learning more about Artemisia Herbs, you can visit us at [www.artemisiaherbsnm.com](http://www.artemisiaherbsnm.com).

I have enjoyed getting to know all of you and appreciate all you do for native plants. Please note that my work email address will no longer be a point of contact; if you would like to reach me, feel free to do so at my personal email address: [fourwingbotanics@gmail.com](mailto:fourwingbotanics@gmail.com). I'll see you all at the conference next year in Santa Fe! ❖

**Photo Contest** (continued from p. 7)**Dasmonda Allen (Otero): Claret cup cactus** (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*)

Dasmonda writes: "This photo was taken in spring 2015, in my backyard. I was trying to hone my photography skills one day and the cacti were all in bloom. I tinkered with my camera for quite some time taking close-ups, full cactus, blurring the background, etc. The cactus was a willing participant."

**Christina M. Selby (Santa Fe): Whole-leaf paintbrush** (*Castilleja integra*)

Christina writes that her photo was taken "from the saddle of Mount Taylor looking west toward Grants and the Zuni Mountains." She goes on: "The colors of the sunset were intensified by a wildfire burning on the horizon. As the sun dipped low, it lit up this whole-leaf paintbrush, setting it aglow. The intense colors of the sunset matched the bright red of the paintbrush shaped like the flames of the distant wildfire. In the midst of a summer of drought, Mount Taylor was still awash with wildflowers."

*Many more beautiful photos were received, all of them celebrating the wonder of New Mexico's native flora. Thanks to all who participated in the contest!* ❖

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBER DONORS!****NPSNM Would Like to Thank . . .**

. . . all members who have made monetary contributions above their regular dues. This list, which covers December 5, 2017, through December 3, 2018, includes those who sent in extra contributions with their memberships. It doesn't in-

clude other contributions people make, such as those sent directly to the treasurer or the contributions of cooperation and energy from the wonderful members of this volunteer organization.

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## NPSNM Would Also Like to Thank . . .

. . . all who have contributed to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund from December 2017 through December 9, 2018. This fund was created to assist the NPSNM in maintaining a balanced budget while continuing to increase the funds available for research and educational grants to

individuals and organizations. It is a long-term endowment fund that has the potential to provide considerably more funds in the future than are currently available. Every dollar is important and we deeply appreciate your participation.

### Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

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memoriam Charles Holmes  
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Charles Holmes

Jack and Martha Carter present the Jack and Martha Carter Native Plant Conservation Award to Angela Flanders, with Bill Norris looking on. The Gila Chapter (which had the privilege this year, as host of the NPSNM annual conference, of selecting the award recipient) chose Angela in particular for her tremendous efforts in overcoming the backlog in specimen mounting and data entry at the WNMU Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium.



## 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](http://www.npsnm.org). Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.  
~Jack & Martha Carter

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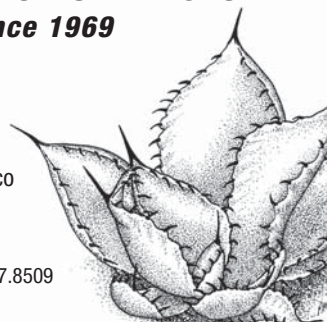
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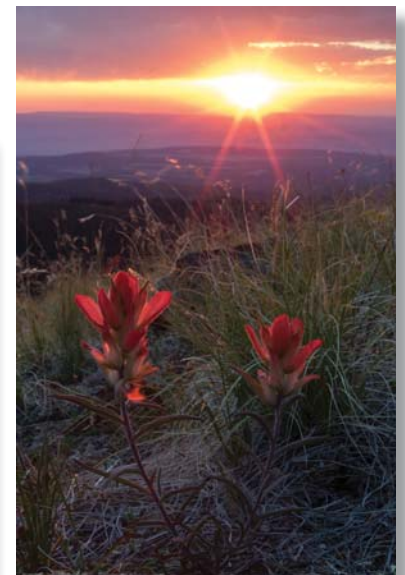
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## *Photo Contest Runners-Up*



*(For photographers/  
plant names,  
see page 1)*