

NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2019

VOL. XXXXIV NO. 2

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2019 Annual Conference
AUGUST 1–4, SANTA FE**
See page 10



Santa Fe Ski Basin

Gary Johnson

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From the President

by Tom Stewart

Worried messages began coming in the late morning. Our website was down and remained invisible to the outside world for several hours on a recent Wednesday. On one hand, I was cheered that so many people seemed to be looking at our website even on a weekday. (One wonders sometimes if anybody cares!) On the other hand, it was alarming how dependent we get and how we take for granted things that are rather fragile and complicated behind the scenes. What was once a novel idea became an improvement, then a convenience, and is now a necessity. So it goes with people as well.

Thanks to quick work by our web hosting service, Southwest Cyberport (SWCP), our site was back up that same afternoon. There had been a glitch in updating some software, but it took SWCP longer to correct it because they couldn't reach the one person they had on record for the Native Plant Society for approving changes. That person was Deb Farson.

Sadly, a sudden health problem left her unable to perform her role with NPSNM as administrative coordinator in early December.

We thank Deb for the many services she provided and wish her the best. But suddenly, we had to find ways to cover everything she had been doing.

You may notice that my hair has gotten a little thinner, but fortunately I did not have to pull all of it out. A volunteer organization like ours gathers lots of people with various skills and kind hearts, and there are folks who deserve our thanks for helping steer the ship through some rough waters at a crucial time of year. First was Debbie Conger, the Albuquerque chapter treasurer who was with me at Deb's bedside to learn about and temporarily take on the book-



keeping. Then Lindsey Kirchhevel, our membership coordinator, who gladly added to her existing chores the work of tracking and depositing donations to the Carter Conservation Fund and sending out thank you letters. Anne Curley, our new state treasurer, quickly learned our financial picture and helped revise the budget in time to present it to the winter board meeting, not to mention writing lots of grant and payment checks. Betty Spence of the Gila chapter has taken on triage and disposition of messages that come in through our public email address. Barbara Fix, former state president and current membership secretary, found a perfectly fitting bookkeeper to get us through tax season. And my daughter has stepped in to help keep the website current.

And yes, it is all worth it. In a conference call a couple of weeks ago with many other native plant societies I was gratified to hear what was going on around the country as well as to report on our own past year. The icing on the cake is the stream of thanks we receive from those who receive our grants, awards, and herbarium donations. It is not all about money, either. Our science teacher of the year award for 2019 went to Nate Moore, who teaches in Santa Fe. At a time when students are spending more hours in front of a screen while officials wonder why results hardly improve, Mr. Moore and others like him are engaging youngsters with nature in a constructive, educational way, removing weed trees, planting natives, and cleaning up the riverside. He wrote to us, "I am so honored by your kind words and award; I love working with kids at the river, and it is great to know that the work the kids do is valued by others beyond our classroom." You just don't know how much we do, Nate, you just don't know. ❖

2019 Donations, Grants, and Teacher Award

by Bettie Hines, Albuquerque Chapter

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 26 to approve donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso, review and award grant proposals, and determine the Teacher Award for 2019.

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 (Farmington), and Western New Mexico University.

The Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund con-

tinues 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.*

The following grants were awarded:

Native Plant Science Scavenger Hunt for Children: Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces

Continued

Sandia High Native Plant Nursery and Outplanting**Project:** Melanie Gisler, Inst. for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe**Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River:** Donna Stevens, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, Gila**Complete and Update Book *Invasive Plants of the Southwest Deserts*:** Donald Heinze, Albuquerque**Carex Measurement Project:** James McGrath, Botanist, Albuquerque**Building Nursery Capacity with the NM Nature in Prisons Project:** Melanie Gisler, Inst. for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe**Native Plant Signage and Upgrade Welcome Center Garden, Organ Mtns–Desert Peaks Nat'l Mon.:** Patrick Nolan, Friends of Organ Mtns–Desert Peaks, Las Cruces**Capacity Building for NM Native Seed Farmers:** Maggie Parrish, Institute for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe**Herbarium and Fieldwork for the Flora of the Gila****Cliff Dwellings:** Kelly Kindscher, Professor, Environmental Studies, University of Kansas**Pecos Sunflower Storytelling, Exhibit, and Film Project:** Cristina M. Selby, Santa Fe**Rio Fernando Park Pollinator Gardens and Native Plant Restoration:** Juniper Manley, Taos Land Trust, Taos**Educational Outreach Sign for Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve:** Mollie Parsons, Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Santa Fe**NM Rare Plant Website Enhancement:** Justin Edwards, Interactive Consulting, LLC, Albuquerque**Teacher Award**—Nathan Moore, Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences, will receive the \$500 award. He takes his students to the Santa Fe River to do community service work by planting native trees, removing invasive trees, picking up trash, and monitoring ecosystem health. His students love learning about plants and spending time outdoors. ❖

Early Spring Bloomers Greet Pollinators

Text and photos by George Miller, Albuquerque Chapter President

Leaf buds are swelling, doves are building nests, and overwintering and hatching insects are beginning to rouse from their seasonal slumber. At a local garden center I recently visited, domestic honey bees, much more cold tolerant than native bees, were abuzz around a display of early-blooming spring heather. After an eon of surviving late spring freezes, the natives were still cozy in their winterized holes and burrows. But not for much longer.

Except for exotic blooming flowers, most native plants

take their time, just as the insects do, and don't bloom until the ground warms enough to stimulate root growth or seed germination. The first priority for emerging native pollinators is to quickly find a source of energy-rich nectar. Normally insects time their emergence with the first blooming flowers. In the grand scheme of nature, some flowers bloom early to beat the competition for pollinator services.

In this win-win strategy, woody perennials (shrubs) are poised on the starting line with a well-developed root system and branches loaded with buds ready to pop when the warming temperature pulls their genetic trigger. They spring into action with the first hint of spring, while herbaceous plants are busy growing stems and leaves. As the season progresses, the small herbaceous perennials, then the annuals, and finally the larger perennials keep the nectar and pollen buffet fully stocked until first frost.

Plant several early-blooming native shrubs in your yard to set the table for spring's first hungry pollinators. Here are three favorites commonly available in native plant nurseries.

Apache Plume, *Fallugia paradoxa*. This fast-growing evergreen with tiny leaves can reach 3 feet wide and 8 feet tall. The numerous ground shoots and bushy, rounded top may require an annual trim-back. It's cold hardy to -30°F and usually needs no supplemental water. The small, white

Continued page 11

The early bird gets the worm, but where will the early-emerging pollinators find a sip of nectar?

HELP WANTED

NPSNM quarterly state newsletter needs a new editor!

Would you enjoy producing a press-ready PDF every March, June, September, and December? Do you have basic copyediting and layout skills? This position pays a \$1,000 annual honorarium.

If interested, please contact Tom Stewart:
tstewart [at] cybermesa.com

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

April–June 2019. Vol. 44 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, 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.

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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

The Victorious MLG

New Mexico Joins the US Climate Alliance. Our new governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, has joined the U.S. Climate Alliance. The Alliance was formed in June 2017, in response to President Trump's announced intent to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. By joining the Alliance, governors commit to:

- Implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emission by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025;
- Track and report progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement; and
- Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.

States belonging to the Alliance represent nearly half of the U.S. population and an economy over \$10 trillion. The climate and clean energy policies of these states will now be addressing one third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. So far, over 1.5 million renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs have been created in Alliance states, equivalent to 55 percent of all clean energy jobs in the United States.

In addition to joining the Alliance, Governor Lujan Grisham's Executive Order also ordered:

- The creation of a New Mexico Climate Change Task Force, which will provide strategic direction for achieving a statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris goals;
- State agencies to work with key stakeholders and legislatures to increase New Mexico's renewable portfolio standard and energy efficiency standards for electric utilities;
- State agencies to develop a statewide, enforceable regulatory framework to reduce methane emissions and prevent further waste from new and existing sources in the oil-and-gas sector.

NM Will End Gila Diversion Planning. Governor Lujan Grisham also pledges to end work on the Gila River Diversion Project. With about a year left to secure approval for the diversion project, there is little to show for the millions spent on staff, lawyers and studies. New Mexico can use the federal funds from the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act for water efficiency, conservation and restoration projects or receive additional money to build a diversion of the Gila

River. In 2014, the Interstate Stream Commission decided, by one vote, to pursue the diversion, and there is still not a clear financially viable plan that will benefit local communities. The governor cites a need to use the settlement money more efficiently on other projects that could help more of southwestern New Mexico. She promises to take whatever steps are available to withdraw the proposal for the diversion project and ask the ISC to explore alternatives to diversion with local governments and stakeholders and develop appropriate plans. She also will work with our Congressional delegation to ensure that the Gila River is protected by federal law.

Fish and Wildlife Service Public Comment Period

The USFWS has published a request for comment on proposed recovery plan amendments for 42 endangered and threatened species, including six New Mexico plants. The affected species are Sacramento prickly-poppy (*Argemone pleiacantha* ssp. *pinnatisecta*), Lee pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha sneedii* var. *leei*), Sneed pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha sneedii* var. *sneedii*), Zuni fleabane (*Erigeron rhizomatus*), Holy Ghost ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*), and Knowlton's cactus (*Pediocactus knowltonii*).

The purpose of a recovery plan is to provide a roadmap for a species' recovery, with the goal of improving its status and managing its threats to the point at which protections under the Act are no longer needed. A recovery plan identifies, organizes, and prioritizes recovery actions.

Recovery criteria serve as objective, measurable guidelines to assist in determining when an endangered species has recovered to the point that it may be downlisted to threatened, or that the protections afforded by the Act are no longer necessary and the species may be delisted.

In order to be considered, comments on the draft recovery plan amendments must be received on or before April 1, 2019.

Rare Plant Conservation Strategy Roll-Out/ Rare Plant Technical Council Meeting

The New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy was developed by the New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Partnership to help guide conservation efforts to help protect rare and endangered plants of New Mexico and prevent possible future federal listings. The Strategy is focused on 235 rare and endangered plant species in New Mexico, including 109 species that only occur in New Mexico and nowhere else

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Conservation Corner (continued from p. 5)

in the world. The overall goal of the New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy is to protect and conserve New Mexico's rare and endangered plant species and their habitats through collaborative partnerships between stakeholders and interested parties to aid and improve the conservation and management of rare plant species and to avoid federal listing. More information can be found at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/ForestMgt/NewMexicoRarePlantConservationStrategy.html>

Whether you are a stakeholder in rare plant conservation or just have an interest in the conservation of rare plants, it is now time to update our progress and expand our partnerships. To learn how you can use the Strategy to better manage and conserve rare plants in New Mexico, there will be a New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy roll-out meeting. The meeting will focus on bringing together current and future partners to explain how the Strategy can be used to prioritize actions needed for the proper management and conservation of rare and endangered plants.

- The Strategy roll-out meeting will be on March 26, 2019, in Santa Fe, NM, at Porter Hall, in the Wendell Chino Building, located at 1220 S. Saint Francis Drive.
- The meeting will be combined with the 2019 New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council meeting, which will be the following day, March 27, at the same location.

Both meetings are free and open to everybody. Please pass on this invitation to other interested parties. The meetings will be held between 8 AM and 4 PM. A detailed agenda will be provided before the meetings.

State Rare Plants Revision

The Forestry Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has statutory responsibility for the State Endangered Plant Species List. Section 75-6-1 NMSA 1978 directs the Division to investigate all plant species in the state for the purpose of establishing a list of endangered plant species. Except for the delisting of Brack's hardwall cactus (*Sclerocactus cloverae* ssp. *brackii*) earlier this year for taxonomic reasons, the list has not been updated since 2006. The Forestry Division gathers information relating to population abundance, distribution, habitat requirements, threats, limiting factors, and other biological and ecological data to determine the status of an endangered species. The information is then used to establish the State Endangered Plant list and to aid in the development of conservation measures necessary for the species' survival. The Division has been compiling and analyzing data to update the list and has solicited the input from species experts on

proposed additions and deletions from the list. The proposed amendments are currently undergoing internal review and will be made available for public review later this spring; they will also be available at the New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy/NMRPTC meetings at the end of March (see above).

Gila National Forest Wilderness

In January, NPSNM member Patrice Mutchnick submitted comments for the Gila National Forest Wilderness Analysis, on behalf of the Gila Native Plant Society. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico and GNPS have contributed extensive public comment during the Gila National Forest Plan Revision process. Besides advocating and providing evidence for additions to the list of Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC), GNPS has submitted a proposal for three distinct Special Botanical Areas within the Gila National Forest.

However, many SoCC locations were not included within these three Special Botanical Areas, and while a proportion of SoCC locations do fall within already established Wilderness Areas, a substantial number of known locations are outside of those boundaries and more vulnerable to disturbance. GNPS recommends that the Forest Service consider the occurrence of any SoCC to be of significance in evaluating potential Wilderness Areas, paying particular attention to specific Important Plant Areas from the Rare Plant Conservation Strategy, and has provided maps to assist the Forest in doing so. ❖

Dear Editor

A reader responds to the caption accompanying the winning contest photo (January–March 2019 issue).

It occurs to me the judges of the photo contest were influenced, as makes sense, by the contrasting color of the two moth pollinators resting on *Rudbeckia laciniata*. At a time when plant enthusiasts are increasingly aware of the role of moths as pollinators, I feel the moths in the act of of pollination should be correctly identified. The name of the moths is *Gnophaela vermiculata*. *Gnophalaea latipennis* is restricted to California.

It appears to me, a long-time lepidopterist, the moths flew to the blossoms. A moth just emerging from the pupa has a completely different resting posture. Recently eclosed adult moths do not climb to a blossom. The moths are obtaining nectar and pollinating the plants. I simply want the moths to receive credit where credit is due.

~ Eric H. Metzler

Saving Beauty: The Story of an Endangered Sunflower

by Daniela Roth, New Mexico State Botanist; and Christina Selby, Santa Fe Chapter

On a sunny afternoon in the late summer of 1992, former New Mexico State Botanist Bob Sivinski was driving back from Roswell, where he had been working. He saw a billboard for the “world famous” Blue Hole spring and stopped to look. As he was pulling out of the parking lot after admiring the crystalline blue waters and the scuba divers, he looked across the street and noticed a huge wetland (ciénega) full of sunflowers turning acres of this rare wetland habitat golden. Bob, who can spot Pecos sunflowers from miles away due to their distinctive yellow color (noticeably lighter than annual sunflowers) and unique ciénega habitat, immediately knew this was one of New Mexico's rarest plants.

This large population of Pecos sunflowers (*Helianthus paradoxus*) growing in the immediate vicinity of the City of Santa Rosa in Guadalupe County, NM, was a new discovery. While this sunflower grows abundantly in Santa Rosa, its entire existence in the world is limited to seven widely spaced populations in west-central and eastern New Mexico and adjacent Texas. Pecos sunflowers only occur on wet, alkaline soils in spring seeps, wet meadows, and along stream courses and pond margins. This wetland habitat is itself endangered and disappearing.

Incompatible land uses, habitat degradation and loss, and groundwater pumping are significant threats to the survival of Pecos sunflowers. It was listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999 and is listed as endangered in the State of New Mexico. Bob soon discovered other rare and endangered plants throughout the ciénegas surrounding the Santa Rosa area, including Wright's marsh thistle (*Cirsium wrightii*) and Great Plains ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), all located on private or city-owned lands.

Santa Rosa, also known as the City of Natural Lakes due to the many lakes in the area, is situated inside a six-mile-diameter sink, one of the most unusual geological features of any city in New Mexico. A sink is a topographic depression formed when underlying limestone and/or gypsum bedrock is dissolved by groundwater. The groundwater in these sinks migrates to the surface as seeps that cause most of the soils to be saturated near the surface and/or root zone of plants, forming small sinkhole lakes and extensive wetland habitats. The Santa Rosa area contains much of the last and best natural wetlands in New Mexico.

After much negotiation and perseverance, Bob was instrumental in getting the New Mexico State Forestry Division

to purchase and protect the 116-acre Blue Hole Ciénega Nature Preserve—to this day the only piece of land the Division owns and manages—solely for the protection of Pecos sunflowers and other rare wetland plants.

In 2012 Daniela Roth took over as the State Botanist and has made great strides in managing the Preserve to restore wetland function and enhance habitat for the sunflowers by researching best management practices and engaging the community to restore and protect local wetlands. Management strategies have included fencing to exclude livestock, multiple prescribed fires, and the complete removal of Russian olives, tamarisk, and other invasive trees, primarily through repeated cutting and herbicide treatments.

Soon the city, county, and other neighboring land owners caught on to the benefits of restoring native wetlands by removing invasive trees, which represented a significant threat to the functioning of wetlands in the Santa Rosa area.

The Santa Rosa schools have engaged students in monitoring wetlands, and the local newspaper took notice and regularly reported on the status of Pecos sunflowers in Santa Rosa. In 2018 the City of Santa Rosa established a 15-acre conservation easement to protect a large population of sunflowers for a minimum of 25 years on city-owned lands.

By now in 2019, close coordination with a variety of stakeholders has led to comprehensive landscape-wide restoration efforts for all wetlands in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, with special emphasis on enhancing habitat for Pecos sunflowers. Partners include the Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District, the New Mexico State Forestry Division, the City of Santa Rosa, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools, Wetwater Environmental Services, private landowners, various artists, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the *Guadalupe County Communicator*.

Coordination, communication, and the engagement of all stakeholders is key to rare plant conservation in the 21st century. Plants on the federal endangered species list don't benefit from the same protections as animals, and that is especially true on non-federal lands. Hence plants rely primarily on goodwill and voluntary actions for protection.

The story of the Pecos sunflower in Santa Rosa provides an example of how a community can work together to pro-

See photos on back cover!

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.

April 13 Field Trip. Pine Flats to see Pasque flowers. Gary Runyon and Doris Eng, leaders. Meet at [A] at 9 a.m.

April 20 Field Trip. Volcanoes Loop Walk, Petroglyph Nat'l Monument. George Miller, leader. Meet at [A] at 8 a.m., or 8:15 at the Volcanoes parking lot.

April 27 Field Trip. Tour of the Pueblo of Santa Ana's Bosque. Nathan Schroeder, leader. Meet at [G] at 8:15 a.m. to carpool, or at 9 a.m. at Hyatt Spa and Resort parking lot.

May 25 Field Trip. Seismosaurus Trail, Ojito Wilderness. Lenore Goodall, leader. Meet 8:15 a.m. in Bernalillo at NW corner Home Depot lot on 550 N of town. Return 1:30 p.m.

June 2 Field Trip. Native Medicinal Plant Walk. Dara Saville, herbalist, leader. Meet at the Bachechi Open Space Education Building at 11 a.m.

June 8 Field Trip. Tecolote Trail. Pam McBride (505/343-9472), leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [A]. Return by 3 p.m.

June 16 Field Trip. Sandia Foothills. Tom Stewart, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the open space trailhead at E end of Cooper NE.

June 29 Field Trip. Oxbow Trail, Rio Grande Corridor. Lenore Goodall, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Pueblo Montano Parking Area (one block east of Coors Blvd. on the south side of Montano). Return at noon.

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

El Paso

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: John White, 575/640-7555; [jmwhite \[at\] utep.edu](mailto:jmwhite@utep.edu).

April 11 UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Gardens FloraFest Preview. John White, garden curator. The Florafest Plant Sale is April 27–28 at the Centennial Museum, UTEP campus.

May 9 Program TBA.

June 13 Program TBA.

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. Field trips are conducted on third Sundays from April to September. Each field trip will be to a different location in order to explore the diversity of our native plants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the south parking lot next to the Fine Arts Center Theatre on the WNMU campus for carpooling. For more field trip information, email [hannablood \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:hannablood@gmail.com). For more program information, check www.gilanps.org/Events/.

April 19 Meeting. "I Bought Native Plants. Now What?" Hanna Blood.

April 21 Field Trip. Low Desert Wildflower Wander.

May 17 Meeting. "MESQUITE: the Tree of life, the Tree of future." Richard Felger.

May 19 Field Trip. A Mosey around the Burro Mountains.

June 16 Field Trip. The Black Range in Bloom.

Las Cruces

Meetings are fourth Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m., in the NMSU Herbarium, or 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. Bring lunch/snack, water, sun protection, and wear good walking shoes. Where and when we meet to carpool varies with each field trip; please check each listing. Participants must sign a release of liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free, unless we are going to a fee area; non-members are always welcome.



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April 6 Field Trip. Camp Robledo, Leasburg Dam State Park. Meet 9 a.m., east end former K-Mart parking lot by Hwy 70 & N. Telshor.

April 13 Field Trip. Aguirre Springs, Organ Mtns. Meet 8 a.m., east end former K-Mart parking lot by Hwy 70 & N. Telshor.

April 20 Earth Day. Plaza of Las Cruces. 8 a.m. until noon.

April 24 Meeting (at NMSU Herbarium). Virtual tour of the biodiversity of Madagascar. Zachary Rogers.

April 27 Field Trip. North Anthony's Nose, Franklin Mtns. Meet 8 a.m. First National Bank 1870, corner University/Telshor.

May 22 Meeting (at NMSU Herbarium). The More the Merrier? Bioprospecting the Bitterness of Cytogenetic Variants within the Creosote Bush in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. Sarah Ramirez.

May 25 Field Trip. Dripping Springs, Organ Mtns. Meet 8 a.m., First National Bank 1870, corner University/Telshor.

June 26 Meeting. Using iNaturalist for Plant Identification. Speaker TBA.

June 29 Field Trip. Sawyers Peak, Black Range. Meet 7 a.m., east end of former K-Mart parking lot by Hwy 70 & N. Telshor.

Otero (Alamogordo)

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

April 20 Annual Native Plant Sale in Alamogordo, location TBD, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. All help is appreciated.

April 27 Earth Day at the Alamogordo Alameda Park Zoo. Otero Chapter booth, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Help will be needed and appreciated.

May 18 Field trip. Alamo Canyon Trail (lower part). Carpoolers meet in Alamogordo Walmart parking lot near the gas station.

June 22 Field trip. Bluff Springs, Sacramento Mtns. 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). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

March 20 Meeting. Saving the Santa Fe Cholla. Joe Newman.

April 17 Meeting. Beyond Automobiles: Native Plant Stewardship, Revegetation, and Highway Ecology at the NM Dept. of Transportation. Steve Gisler, environmental specialist, NMDOT.

May 15 Topic/speaker TBD. Check website.

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.

April 17 Meeting. Tree Tales and Shrub Love. Marisa Thompson, Urban Horticultural Specialist, NMSU Extension Plant Sciences, Los Lunas.

April 28 Meeting. **11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Special Event: Gardening with Natives, a Roundtable Discussion**, with Gail Haggard, Plants of the Southwest, Santa Fe. Location TBA. Reservations required (members of NPSNM have first priority)—see above for contact information.

May 15 Meeting. Speaker TBA.

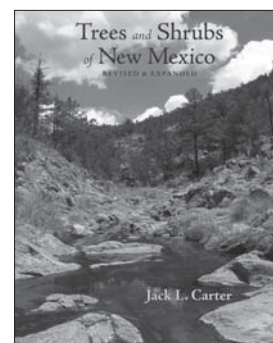
June 19 Meeting. The Penstemon Gardens at the Los Alamos Nature Center. Larry Deaven.

Available only through the Gila Native Plant Society:

Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico

by Jack L. Carter

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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.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

2019 Native Plant Conference/ Annual Meeting All Trails Lead to Santa Fe:

Thursday,
August 1
to
Sunday,
August 4



Institute of
American
Indian
Arts
Santa Fe

Capitalize *on the* Capitol!

CONFERENCE LOCATION The meeting will be held in the Center for Lifelong Education (CLE) on the campus of the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA). IAIA is located at 83 Avan Nu Po Road in Rancho Viejo, approximately 8 miles south of Santa Fe or a 15-minute drive from the Santa Fe Plaza.

ACCOMMODATIONS **IAIA Dorm Rooms:** A *limited* number of reasonably priced single- and double-occupancy dorm rooms on the IAIA campus will be available on a first-come first-served basis. These rooms are modern and each has a private bathroom. Single and/or double rooms are priced at \$70/night, which includes a continental breakfast. Please contact Tom Antonio at tom@thomasantonio.org to reserve your space. Upon confirmation of your reservation, please submit a \$50 non-refundable check made out to the Santa Fe Chapter NPSNM. ❖ **Inn at Santa Fe:** Off I-25, take exit 278. It is located at 8376 Cerrillos Rd., approximately 2 miles from IAIA. Mention the Native Plant Conference for the discount (\$99 + tax), including a full American breakfast. 888/871-7138, 505/474-9500. www.InnAtSantaFe.com. ❖ In addition, there are many other accommodations in Santa Fe, which vary significantly in price. August is high tourist season in Santa Fe, so we urge you to make your reservations ASAP. For additional information, please visit www.santafe.org, the official travel site for Santa Fe.

NOTE: *We expect the conference program to be available in early April—so please look to register for the many field trips and workshops on the NPSNM website. The paper registration insert will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.*

Early Spring Bloomers (continued from p. 3)

flowers begin blooming in April, and flowers and feathery seed plumes cover the plant through October.

New Mexico Olive, *Forestiera pubescens*. With smooth, gray bark, this 6–20-foot-tall tree can be trimmed up to show off the ornate multiple trunks or grown as a shrub with airy branches. As the small, glossy leaves develop in March, tiny clusters of nondescript flowers with an abundant supply of nectar for bees bloom on the twigs. Through summer, dense clusters of blue-black, 1/4-inch diameter, fleshy fruit attract resident and migrating birds. In the fall, the plant sports a rich coat of golden leaves.



Fallugia paradoxa (Apache plume)

Forestiera pubescens (New Mexico olive)



Golden Current, *Ribes aureum*. This bushy 6–10-foot-tall, deciduous shrub blooms in late March with a profusion of golden to orange flowers. Bees, butterflies, and even hummingbirds love the nectar-rich flowers. Birds will thank you in the summer when the juicy, yellowish, 3/8-inch-diameter fruit ripen. In the autumn, the small, fan-shaped leaves turn hues of red and orange before falling. Various cultivars with extra-showy flowers are sometimes available. ❖

Ribes aureum (golden current)



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A Not So Lazy Monday Afternoon in the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium

by William ("Bill") R. Norris; photos by Russ Kleinman

Don't let the dreamy expression on Jane Spinti's face fool you: The Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium at Western New Mexico University is a hopping place. This facility, estab-

Next step in this assembly line is data entry of label information into an on-line database (SEINet, <http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/>) of specimens housed in more



Jane Spinti

lished in 1957 by (you guessed it) WNMU Emeritus Professor Dr. Dale Zimmerman, currently houses more than 28,000 plant specimens and continues to grow. Each and every one of these specimens had to be collected by someone, pressed for several weeks until dry, and then mounted on archival herbarium paper with an accompanying label.



Angela Flanders

than 30 herbaria throughout the Southwest. Finally, each specimen is placed in a folder with other specimens of the same species and filed in an appropriate herbarium cabinet. Think about it: The above sequence of events had to occur 28,000 separate times over the past 60+ years. (Note: Data entry of specimen data into an herbarium database began only 20 years ago, and remarkably, each and every specimen in the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium has been catalogued into SEINet.)

I probably don't need to provide the members of the Native Plant Society of



Betsy Kaido



Jane Spinti

Continued

Herbarium (continued)

New Mexico with a detailed list of reasons why herbaria are so important in documenting our botanical heritage, and so I won't. In this brief article, I do wish to acknowledge all the support that our "little" herbarium has had and continues to receive. For more years than I can count, NPSNM has made generous annual financial contributions to New Mexico university herbaria, which allows each to maintain a stock of essential supplies (plant presses, herbarium paper, fragment packets, archival glue, etc.) even when institutional funds are unavailable for this purpose. Furthermore, the majority of the tasks described in the first paragraph have in recent years been completed by a team of dedicated volunteers—Jane Spinti, Betsy Kaido, and Angela Flanders—who come into the herbarium on a regular basis (lately, every Monday afternoon) to keep the assembly line moving forward smoothly and efficiently. As the long-time curator of the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium, I am extremely grateful for these generous contributions of money and time, without which meaningful activity in our herbarium would come to a standstill. So, thank you, NPSNM, and thank you, Jane, Betsy and Angela, for all your support. ❖

Saving Beauty (continued from p. 7)

tect an endangered species and be good stewards of the environment while continuing with their land-based lifestyle.

The persistent efforts within the community of Santa Rosa make this ongoing wetland restoration project a stellar example of rare plant conservation in the state of New Mexico. And that's a story many other communities can learn from.

That's why Conservation Productions, a Santa Fe-based media company focused on storytelling to amplify conservation campaigns, has joined these efforts to make a film, photo exhibit, and social media campaign about the endangered Pecos sunflower and its disappearing wetland habitat. Documentaries can change the world. They evoke emotion, care, and action and can create a tipping point for conservation efforts.

The film *Saving Beauty: The Story of An Endangered Sunflower* tells the story of the New Mexico's state botanists and partners working to save the rare Pecos sunflower in its wetland habitat and the people of Santa Rosa learning to value this endangered species in their backyard.

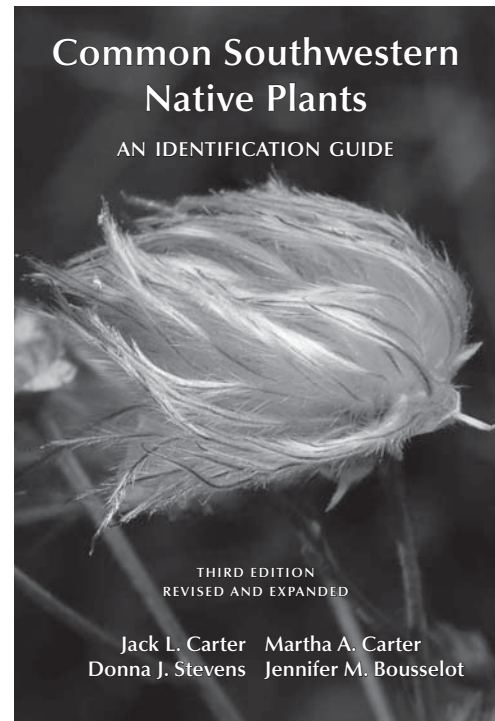
This story is about more than one plant and one habitat. Native plants in New Mexico need a poster child to focus the public's attention and show how protecting plants benefits us all. To learn more about this project and support these efforts, visit www.savingbeautyfilm.com. ❖

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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

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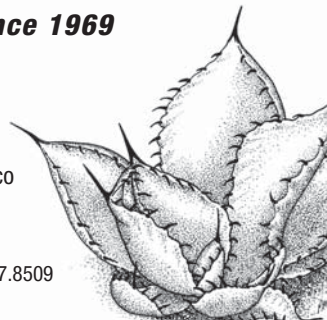
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Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve 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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- | | |
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**Pecos sunflowers
(*Helianthus paradoxus*)**

Photos: Daniela Roth

**See
"Saving Beauty"
on page 7!**

