



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2021

VOL. XXXXVI No. 2



The Chapter Activities & Events showcases upcoming talks (last minute updates available on the [npsnm.org](http://npsnm.org) website.) With so many programs available by zoom, you'll want to see what ALL the Chapters have to offer. Jim Von Loh (Las Cruces) will be speaking on wildflowers and pollinators, illustrated by his own spectacular photography. We hope to see you there on April 14!

Above: tarantula hawk wasp (*Pepsis* sp.) foraging on whorled milkweed flowers.  
Top right: Representative *Echinomastus intertextus* (Engelm.) flowers.  
Right: Pipevine swallowtail feeding on evening primrose flowers.

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

April–June 2021, Vol. 46 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.

**The next submission deadline is May 25, 2021.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Margaret Ménache, [npsnmnewsletter \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmnewsletter[at]gmail.com).

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<b>Membershiip Coordinator</b>	Lindsey Kirchhevel
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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.

#### Changed Your Email Address?

Please notify Lindsey Kirchhevel,  
NPSNM Membership Coordinator:  
[npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership[at]gmail.com)

**If you received this newsletter as a hard copy but would prefer it via email only, please notify [ask.npsnm \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:ask.npsnm[at]gmail.com).**

#### Missed an Issue?

You can always find current and past issues of the NPSNM newsletters online: [www.npsnm.org/newsletters/](http://www.npsnm.org/newsletters/)

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

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information,  
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NPSNM is a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization

## From the President

by Tom Stewart



Let me introduce two remarkable people. The first is Madeleine Woodward, our new website manager. Have you noticed recent updates and corrections that were long overdue? Have you looked at www.npsnm.org since the first of this year? Our goals are to make it easier to navigate, more useful to chapters and members, and more helpful to the general public.

After months without a skilled helper to care for the site, I explained it to the state board members: “We need not just someone with internet expertise, but a person familiar with the Native Plant Society and an understanding of our purpose and attitudes. Ideally, someone ‘in the family’ already.” In a few days, Joan Woodward, who is the Las Cruces representative to the board, asked if it would be all right to consider her daughter for the position. The only possible answer was a heartfelt, “Of course!”

We are very pleased to welcome Madeleine Woodward, who graduated from NMSU with a Bachelor of Creative Media degree with honors. She has experience in website management and plant science, and has an interest in native plants and gardening. I dare not say more or she might be recruited away from us.

Madeleine first looked in every nook and cranny of our site and catalogued all the minor and major problem areas. Besides general fixes and posting upcoming events, she has worked with chapter leaders on their pages. Please check out the Albuquerque Chapter web page, available from our homepage under Chapters. Madeleine has worked wonders with a few pictorial buttons at the top of the Albuquerque Chapter page that take you instantly to the content you want. The Gila Chapter (GNPS) already has its very own website, but any of our chapters may ask for Madeleine’s assistance in revamping their pages in the way they like. Contact: mwoodward095 [at] gmail.com

The second remarkable person is our Science Teacher of the Year, Estela T. Thompson, who has done amazing work in the small city of Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Mrs. Thompson has made it her mission to educate every student in Santa Rosa about the native, endangered plant species of the Blue Hole Cienega. She has been teaching for 19 years, and for the last 15 has taught a unit on wetland ecology, the importance of conservation, and the role of the preserve. Students are given an intimate encounter with the Cienega and are able to interact with the scientists who have worked and conducted research in it. They also learn the threats of invasive species and observe removal operations.

Mrs. Thompson and her students are featured in *Saving Beauty*. This documentary film about the Pecos sunflower was produced by Christina Selby with support from our Carter Conservation Fund. The film will be screened at the upcoming Annual Conference hosted by the Otero Chapter and Christina will be speaking there about the making of this film.

The Carter Conservation Fund is also the source of the Teacher Award, and we wish Estela Thompson a great future in her educational work. Readers should please consider nominating school teachers they know (see our website) who go beyond the basics by imparting knowledge of and respect for native plants and their habitats. ❖

## Letters to the Editor

**From Santa Fe:** Kudos to Rachel Jankowitz for the fine reporting on off road vehicles and the desire of certain folks to use the Rio Grande River as a site for a habitat destruction demonstration. My thanks to the Las Cruces Chapter of NPSNM for its intervention to stop off-roaders from using the river channel. And, of course, I enjoyed the statements that no one knew that permits might be needed to plow someone else’s property. “I didn’t see a sign,” is the first comment of any trespasser. However, there is one minor comment in the article, “Nobody is against folks having fun with their off-road motor vehicles,” with which I have issue. It ought to be that no one should take offense at folks having fun in their off-road vehicles on private property where permission is granted. There’s no room for destruction of scarce habitat on public lands for nothing more than an hour’s enjoyment. Shane Woolbright

**From Albuquerque:** Thank you for the introduction to our new NPSNM officers. It was interesting to learn a bit about each of them and served as a good reminder of how diverse the interests and talents of our members are! Judith Phillips

**From Aztec:** Just a quick note to say that I appreciated Tom Stewart’s “From the President” comments in the January–March newsletter. It’s important to counteract the minimizing of science among the general citizenry and the former Trump administration. So thanks, Tom, for telling it like it is. Vicky Ramakka ❖

## Conservation Corner: the Year of the Webinar

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

For the past year, much of our lives have taken place over the internet. Thank goodness for technology! As more and more organizations go virtual, a number of really stunning video presentations have been made available to the general public as recordings. In the spirit of 2020, I offer for your viewing pleasure some of my favorite native-plant-conservation-related video experiences. All of the groups publishing these shows have many other recorded videos and upcoming webinars, which you can find listed on their websites.

### Southeast New Mexico Wetlands Storymap

From the NMED Wetlands Program:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/wetlands/>, scroll down to SE NM Wetlands Storymap.

Learn about the different types of wetland in our amazing state. Wetlands provide habitat for diverse vegetation communities in this semi-arid region. In 2009, the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau Wetlands Program identified a need to update and improve existing wetlands information and to remotely map and classify wetlands and riparian areas. This project is part of a greater effort to map all wetlands in the entire state. Several coded classifications were applied to the mapped inventory resulting in a myriad of products suitable for use in applied biology. (Full disclosure: the SWQB is my current employer.)

### Tamarisk Beetle History, Release, and Spread

From Rivers Edge West:

<https://riversedgewest.org/events/tamarisk-beetle-webinar>

Biological control is the introduction of an insect or other “natural enemy” that predates the invasive plant of concern. The tamarisk beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.) is the biological control organism for managing tamarisk. The tamarisk beetle was tested by the US Department of Agriculture for over ten years to ensure that it would be effective and not feed on native plants or crops here in the western United States. In 2001, the US Department of Agriculture approved it for release and the

tamarisk beetle has since become an important component of tamarisk control.

### Effects of the Beetle: Tamarisk Mortality, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and Wildfire

Also from Rivers Edge West: <https://riversedgewest.org/events/effects-tamarisk-beetle-tamarisk-mortality-southwestern-willow-flycatcher-and-wildfire>

Although biological control can play an important role in suppressing tamarisk and restoring native plant biodiversity, there is an inherent risk when releasing a foreign organism. Potential short-term consequences cannot be disregarded. One consequence of tamarisk beetle defoliation is the risk posed to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) where beetle populations and flycatcher critical habitat overlap. Other potential issues from the beetle include: standing dead biomass, bank destabilization, restoration challenges, and repercussions implicit in a rapidly changing landscape.

### The Navigable Water Protection Rule: Highlights and Initial Takeaways

From the Association of State Wetland Managers:

<https://www.aswm.org/aswm/aswm-webinarscalls/4891-2020-past-clean-water-act-webinars>

This webinar took place in March 2020. The final Rule, in effect now, is slightly changed from the proposal circulating at that time. Nevertheless, the webinar provides a good starting point to understand how the new rule will affect the extent of coverage by the federal Clean Water Act. For a summary of how the loss of coverage will affect New Mexico native plant communities, see the letter that NPSNM sent to the agencies during the public comment period (<https://www.npsnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-WOTUS.pdf>).

### An Introduction to the Rio Grande

From the New Mexico Audubon Society:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0qQkUoYLHE>

The theme of this presentation is that the Middle Rio Grande is still kicking after all these years. The webinar digs into conservation challenges and opportunities, and water-climate resilience in this unique ecosystem. Celebrate the Rio Grande in all of its complexities.

### Aspen Ecology and Conservation

From the Natural Areas Association:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa1In5Mxtn8&t=102s>

Learn about aspen's values to people and ecosystems in the context of evolving science and conservation practice. The

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video reviews basic ecology, research developments, and adaptive monitoring in contemporary forest stewardship. There are many threats to sustainable aspen forests, including past management, herbivory of wild and domestic ungulates, recreation and development, a changing climate, and lack of coordination at ownership/boundary lines.

### Darwin's Passion for Plants

From the New York Botanical Garden:

<https://www.nybg.org/plant-research-and-conservation/news-events/science-conservation-humanities-seminars/>

A NYBG curator discusses the six books that Charles Darwin wrote about plants. You will learn new things about plants you thought you knew. Warning: This is a very nicely produced recording, but more than one viewer has experienced technical difficulties maintaining a connection through the whole presentation.

### Conserving Pollinators on New Mexico's Rangelands

From the Natural Resources Conservation Service/ Xerces Society: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV3EAAtyC6M>

Fortunately for pollinators, the Xerces Society expanded its conservation efforts this year by adding a new regional position, the Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist, based in Santa Fe. Topics covered during this webinar include a discussion of the most important pollinator plants in New Mexico rangeland, pollinator habitat evaluation, habitat restoration, and pollinator-friendly rangeland management using NRCS practices. ❖

## Santa Fe Chapter Thanks Rachel!

by *Barbara Fix, Santa Fe Chapter*

The Santa Fe NPSNM chapter is proud to award a lifetime membership to Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Chair. Rachel, in her Conservation Corner newsletter articles, has kept our membership informed about regional conservation issues, many of which are not covered in the media. She has also represented NPSNM in making thoughtful, careful and well-informed comments on various federal and state agency proposals affecting native plants. Rachel has truly served the core of our mission as the Voice for Native Plants. Thank you, Rachel! ❖



## Carter Conservation Fund Awardees

Generous donations from members and the general public to the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund, as well as investment income, allowed the Native Plant Society to provide funding for eleven worthy projects around New Mexico this year. Our timely support to the Institute for Applied Ecology, for instance, may help save the critically endangered Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot butterfly by growing and reestablishing its specific forage plants in its historic habitat.

Our Board of Directors was proud to award grants for conservation, research and education projects to these additional applicants as well:

- The Tyrone, New Mexico Property Owners Association, to create a demonstration native plant exhibit in the community park.
- The New Mexico State University Herbarium, to organize and curate the bryophyte specimen collection within the oldest herbarium in the state.
- The La Cosecha CSA (Albuquerque Valley), to restore native vegetation on degraded property to conserve the plants and their pollinators.
- The Taos Land Trust, to establish a small herbarium of local species in Rio Fernando Park.
- Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, in continued support of tamarisk eradication on the Gila River.
- Friends of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, to launch their Backyard Refuge Certification Program for area residents.
- Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners, to demonstrate the use of native grasses in compacted soil.
- The Railroad Park Conservancy, to provide artistic signs that educate the public in the nature and benefits of a native grassland within the city of Santa Fe.
- NM Institute of Mining and Technology ("NM Tech"), to study the hydrologic-geologic-vegetative dynamics of native species compared with tamarisk on the Rio Grande.
- Chiricahua Apache National Order Mission and Alliance, to collect and preserve traditional knowledge of plants, their names and their uses, and to create an educational program to convey it to the next generation. ❖

## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on upcoming 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 Chapters; then select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground. As we go to press, **Covid-19 restrictions** remain in place and many in-person events have migrated online. Remember if you do meet with your fellow society members that you should wear a mask and observe social distancing. On the positive side, many chapters are now using online meeting platforms and recording sessions, which they are making accessible to the general public. The home page of the NPSNM website has a number of interesting talks you can "attend." ❖

### Albuquerque

Monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, currently online via Zoom. Meeting links are distributed to chapter members via e-mail prior to the meeting. For more information on programs and/or registration for an upcoming Zoom meeting, contact Sara Keeney at [skeeney \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:skeeney[at]swcp.com) or 505-379-3392 or check the Albuquerque Chapter page of [NPSNM.org](http://NPSNM.org)

No 2021 field trips are scheduled due to the pandemic until further notice. Plant lists are available for hikes on your own on the website.

**Apr 7 Meeting.** "Restoring Healthy Forests in NM." Collin Haffey of the Rio Grande Water Fund will describe the work of this public-private partnership. The presentation will focus on restoration work in the Las Conchas fire area, including tree-planting efforts.

**May 5 Meeting.** "Native Plant Community Projects Funded by NPSNM." The Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE, Santa Fe office) will convene a panel to discuss three native plant capacity building projects funded by NPSNM Jack and Martha Carter grants in 2019.

**Jun 2 Meeting.** "A Flora of New Mexico: 2007-Present." Botanist Ken Heil will tell us how he and fellow botanist Steve O'Kane, Jr. were awarded a five-year Bureau of Land Management Grant in 2007 to conduct field studies throughout New Mexico.

### El Paso

Meetings are usually at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Coffee social at 6:30 unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Nonmembers welcome. Info: John White, 575/640-7555; [jmwhite \[at\] utep.edu](mailto:jmwhite[at]utep.edu).

### Gila (Silver City)

Virtual meetings will be held via Zoom on third Fridays at 7:00 pm. Chapter members will receive a Zoom link by email. Any others interested may request a link from [gilanative \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:gilanative[at]gmail.com). All are welcome. For more information, check our website at [www.gilanps.org/events/programs/](http://www.gilanps.org/events/programs/).

**Apr 16 Meeting.** "Ecology of a desert night-blooming cactus, *Peniocereus greggii*, in New Mexico" – presenter Beth Leuck This state-endangered cactus is found in four southwestern New Mexico counties. Ecological characteristics of this species

that will be discussed include its habitat, plant associations, flowering, and its ability to apparently die and resurrect itself.

**May 21 Meeting.** "Introduction to Liverworts of New Mexico" – presenter Karen Blisard. Karen will present a basic discussion of liverworts, including their morphology, how they are different from mosses, how to look at them, and which ones occur in New Mexico.

### Las Cruces

Meetings are usually the second or third Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7:00 pm in the NMSU Herbarium, Biology Annex on NMSU campus. Zoom link will be announced a few days before the presentation. Field Trips are usually on the Sunday following the Wednesday meeting; most last into the afternoon. None are scheduled for the next three months at this time. Contact: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413. Leave a message so we can get back to you.

**Apr 14 Meeting.** "Local Spring and Summer Floristic Digital Images and Discussion, Featuring Flowering Cacti, Associated Wildflowers, and Selected Pollinators." James Von Loh, retired field biologist and vegetation mapping specialist.

**May 12 Meeting.** "Intro to Butterflying." Rob Wu, environmental consultant and illustrator.

**Jun 9 Meeting.** "Basic Botany and Plant ID for Gardeners, with Native Plant Examples." Marisa Thompson, NMSU urban horticulture specialist.

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For workshop and field trip details, contact Elva Osterreich, [echoofthedesert \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:echoofthedesert[at]gmail.com), 575/443-4408, or Jennifer Gru-

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**Apr 10** Using native plants in home landscaping, a home garden tour and discussion of LeAnne Roberts' native plant garden. LeAnne will talk about her experiences and challenges of developing a desert plant garden. This workshop is designed in part to help people in their selection of native plants from the following weekend's Native Plant Sale. Space is limited due to Covid-19 social distancing restrictions, please call to let her know you will be attending. Her number is (918) 284-3517.

**Apr 17** Annual Native Plant Sale in Alamogordo will be held by appointment between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm at the home of LeAnne and Bob Roberts. Please call LeAnne to schedule an appointment to come and browse the selection of plants and purchase what you would like. Her number is (918) 284-3517.

**May 22** Field trip. White Sands National Park. What lives in the interdunal areas and why does it survive there? Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot behind the visitor's center at the park.

**May 22** Field trip. Pines Trail South - Starts at Pines Campground just northeast of Cloudcroft and runs together with the Osha Trail for a short distance. Follows an old railroad bed. Rated easy. Meet at 8:00 am at the southwest corner of Florida and Highway 180.

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso). For more information, check the NPSNM website. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

### Taos

Meetings are usually third Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in Kit Carson Electric Cooperative boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. However, those meetings remain suspended. We will be scheduling webinars (which will be recorded and posted on our YouTube channel) and hope to host small group outdoor events which we will announce by email to members and post on social media. Check the NPSNM website or our Facebook page (search for "Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter") for updates. Contact: TaosNPS (at) gmail.com, or phone Jan Martenson at 575-751-0511. Videos of past meetings can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos> ❖



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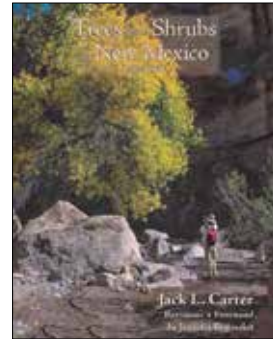
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Brand-New 2020 Edition

## 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.

## The Story Behind the Third Edition

by Betty Spence, Gila Chapter

The new, third edition of Jack Carter's *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* has arrived in town!

In the nick of time before the big storm, Gila chapter volunteers got 1500 copies safely stowed in self-storage. The volunteers for heavy lifting: Wendy Graves, Beth and Ed Leuck, Elroy Limmer, and Don Graves, who took the picture shown here.

Over a year ago, having run out of copies of



*Continued page 13*

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**2021 Annual Conference**  
**People and Native Plants**  
**A Journey Through Time**

Friday,  
**August 20**  
 to  
 Sunday,  
**August 22**



Alamogordo  
 Tularosa  
 Otero  
 County

Presentations, field trips and workshops over the three-day conference will support our theme of “A Journey Through Time” by highlighting the rich history of both the people and the native plants throughout the Tularosa Basin and surrounding ranges. Speakers, workshops, and field trips will be presented in chronological order to reveal the interwoven story of people and native plants in this fragile and fascinating Chihuahuan Desert region.

We look forward to having you join us on our Journey Through Time!

If you are planning to attend the conference in person, we ask that you please provide us with your vaccine status so that we can be sure to arrange the physical layout of the sessions and activities to be in compliance with the current CDC guidelines at the time of the conference. All CDC guidelines and state mandates will be observed.

**Conference Location:** Registration and presentations will take place in the Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center in Alamogordo, NM. All presentations will be available virtually as well, except for field trips.

**Accommodations:** **Magnuson by Desert Aire.** 1021 S White Sands Blvd, Alamogordo, NM 88310. 575-437-2110. Special Advance Rates to all State Conference attendees. Guests must declare all pets at check-in (\$15/pet; 2 pets). Full hot breakfast, large outdoor pool, WIFI, room microwave and fridge. Promo code “State Conference 2021”. **Holiday Inn Express and Suites.** 100 Kerry Ave, Alamogordo, NM 88310. 575-434-9773 Special rates available. Two Queen beds or one King bed. Hot/cold breakfast, swimming pool, hot tub, exercise room and room work area, Keurig coffee maker, fridge and microwave. Promo code “State Conference 2021”.

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year’s NPSNM state conference. The Otero chapter invites you to donate items that might be of interest to other members.

To offer an item, please contact  
 Jen Gruger — jengruger [at] gmail.com



## 2021 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico Otero Chapter, Alamogordo, New Mexico

### Thursday, August 19

1:30 pm–3:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting, Magnuson Hotel and Suites, 1021 S White Sands Blvd, Alamogordo

### Friday, August 20

7:30 am–4:00 pm Check-in/Registration, Sergeant Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center (SWEMCC)

8:00 am–4:00 pm Silent Auction/Vendors open

9:00 am–9:30 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**, Jennifer Gruger, president of the Otero County chapter

9:30 am–10:30 am **Evidence for plant use from Archaic traditions (~ 6,000 BC–200 AD) through the El Paso phase (AD 1275-1450)**, Key Note Speaker Pam McBride

10:30 am–10:45 am Break

#### JORNADA MOGOLLON PERIOD

10:45 am–11:30 am **Prehistoric evidence of native plant utilization and landscape modification in Tularosa Canyon**, David Greenwald (Companion FT #E on Sunday)

11:30 am–12:15 pm **People and environment of the Three Rivers culture and their record in stone**, Joan Price (Companion FT #F on Sunday)

12:15 pm–1:30 pm Lunch

#### MESCALERO APACHE PERIOD

1:30 pm–2:15 pm **Tribal historic preservation – Uses of plants**, Holly Houghten

2:15 pm–2:30 pm Break

#### MEXICAN SETTLERS PERIOD

2:30 pm–3:15 pm **Historic and modern uses of native plants**, Alex Mares

3:15 pm–4:15 pm **Panel Discussion – What is a “Native Plant”?**

5:00 pm–7:00 pm Reception - White Sands National Park (pending confirmation.)

7:00 pm Dinner on your own

### Saturday, August 21

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Field Trips and Workshops, 8:00 am–noon, unless otherwise indicated. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate a companion workshop or field trip during another part of the conference. Meeting locations and information on workshop fees will be provided later. Fees will be payable at registration. Some workshops will be available virtually.

WS1 **Using Native Plants in home landscaping—notes from a rookie** Leader: LeAnne Roberts  
Limit: 15

WS2 **\*Elderberry uses: Eating, cooking, medicinal and dyes** Leader: Kristy Tramel  
Companion FT #C on Sunday. Location: Pending. Limit: 20.

WS3 **Apache uses of plants in food preparation** Leader: TBD  
Location: SWEMCC Limit: 15.

- WS4 **Nature's Pharmacy—identification of native plants and their uses** Leader: Mimi Kamp  
(Companion to FT #B on Sunday) Location: SWEMCC Limit: 20.
- WS5 **Sunflower workshop** Leaders: Dr. Richard Spellenberg and Dr. Timothy Lowrey  
Location: SWEMCC. Limit: 20.
- WS6 **Traditional pottery of the Ysleta del sur Pueblo** Leader: Richard Hernandez  
Learn about uses, examples, and how to make a simple pot. Each participant will create their own pot.  
Location: Clay Time, 700 East First Street, Suite 756. Limit: 15.
- FT7 **Tularosa Basin Museum of History private tour and optional self-guided walking tour of early homes in Alamogordo** Leader: Debra Lewandowski  
A historical Pueblo Revival building. Exhibits range from prehistoric to the Space Race. Helpful in understanding the geography, people, and development of the area. Location: 1004 N. White Sands Blvd. Limit: 20.
- FT8 **Tularosa acequia system tour** Leaders: Robert Baca, Mayordomo and Michael Gruger, Tularosa resident  
Historic 49 blocks of Tularosa and surrounding area. Driving/walking tour led by the mayordomo of the longest actively utilized acequia (open ditch irrigation system) in the southwest. Meeting location: TBD. Limit: 20.
- FT9 **Historical trees of Tularosa** Leader: Elva Osterreich  
Driving and walking in Tularosa and surrounding area. Look not only at the types of trees in the area but also some of the oral history and tales surrounding them, including ghost stories and more. Meeting location: TBD. Limit: 20.
- FT10 **Alamo Canyon hike and plant identification** Leader: Ken Henderson  
High desert vegetation. Difficulty intermediate. See website for additional information. Location: Alamo Canyon, just east of Alamogordo. Limit: 20.
- FT11 **People and Plants, wisdom of an Apache medicine man** Leader: Joey Padilla Limit: 20.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- 12:30 pm–4:00 pm Silent Auction/Vendors open  
Noon–1:30 pm Lunch – SWEMCC

## TERRITORIAL PERIOD

- 1:30 pm–2:15 pm **Cienegas in the Territorial Period: Saving all the Beauty That Remains, a conversation with filmmaker Christina Selby**

## EARLY LOGGING AND RAILROAD PERIOD

- 2:15 pm–3:00 pm **The effect of logging on the plant ecosystem and early railroads**, Jessie Willet

## MODERN ERA

- 3:00 pm–3:45 pm **Experimental range, range grasses, impact of grazing and shrub encroachment**, Brandon Bestelmeyer
- 3:45 pm–4:00 pm Break - Silent Auction closes at 4:00 pm
- 4:00 pm–4:50 pm **Weed ecology and restoration ecology**, Akasha Faist and Erik Lenhoff
- 4:50 pm–5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**, Jennifer Gruger
- 5:00 pm–5:30 pm Pick up Silent Auction Items
- 6:30 pm **Evening Banquet** – SWEMCC  
Presentation of Jack and Martha Carter Native Plant Conservation Award Recipient and a visit from a Very, Very Special Guest

## Sunday, August 22

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. Some of them might be on your route home. Items marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate a companion workshop or field trip during another part of the conference. Meeting locations and information on workshop fees will be provided later. Fees will be payable at registration.

- A White Sands National Park** **Leader: David Bustos**, park biologist  
Walk to a behind-the-scenes area that is not normally accessed by the public, look at the survival techniques of the cottonwood trees, and visit some of the interdunal areas to learn how they work. Ideal for those headed south toward El Paso or Las Cruces. **Limit: 20.**
- B \*Identification and responsible harvest of herbs** **Leader: Mimi Kamp**  
(Companion to WS4) **Location:** Specific meeting point TBD closer to the event based on what's growing where but Cloudcroft/High Rolls area. **Limit: 20.**
- C \*Elderberry hunting skills** **Leader: Kristy Tramel**  
**Meeting Location:** Cloudcroft, specific spot pending (Companion workshop WS2) **Limit: 20.**
- D Health benefits of being in nature: Meditation practices to increase awareness** **Leader: LeAnne Roberts**  
**Location:** LeAnne and Ron Roberts home at 34 High Sierra Drive in Alamogordo **Limit 20.**
- E \*Creekside Village tour** **Leader: David Greenwald**  
Observe the effects prehistoric and historic land-use activities have had on the landscape. Discuss what native plants were exploited by the Jornada Mogollon who occupied the canyon. **Hike:** moderate/difficult (Companion presentation at 10:45 am on Friday.) **Limit: 20.**
- F \*Three Rivers Petroglyph Site tour with plant ID** **Leader: Joan Price**  
The petroglyphs, dating back to ~900–1400 AD, were created by Jornada Mogollon people. More than 21,000 glyphs of birds, humans, animals, fish, insects plants, and geometric and abstract designs are scattered over 50 acres of New Mexico's northern Chihuahuan Desert. **Hike:** easy to moderate, the trail is 1/2 mile. **Location:** 17 miles north of Tularosa and 28 miles south of Carrizozo on U.S. 54. (Companion presentation at 11:30 on Friday.) Ideal for those headed north to Albuquerque or Santa Fe. **Limit: 20.**
- G Life zones of the Sacramento Mountains** **Leader: William Herndon**  
Driving tour up La Borcita Canyon Road that will stop at five different life zones. Explore plants, animals and birds at each zone. **Difficulty:** easy. **Limit: 20.**
- H Oliver Lee State Park** **Leader: Katherine German**, park ranger/manager.  
Set against the Sacramento Mountains, this park features Frenchy's cabin, an historic ranch house, and riparian trail (hopefully with dragon flies). We will visit a unique oasis of water pools under the cottonwood trees of Dog Canyon. The 620-acre park is named after a colorful and influential character, Oliver Lee, from the turn of the 20th century. Ideal for those headed to El Paso or Las Cruces. **Limit: 20.**
- I Osha Trail hike and identification of plants** **Leader: Esther Fyock**  
The easy-to-follow 2.2 mile loop passes through high mountain vegetative and geological environments typical of the Cloudcroft vicinity and other nearby areas at similar elevations. Douglas-fir, oak, and aspen abound opening up into meadows of vast variety. **Hike:** Moderate difficulty. **Limit: 20.**
- J Aguirre Springs Pine Tree Trail** **Leader: TBA**  
The four-mile trail offers spectacular views of the Tularosa Basin, and includes streams, grassy areas, a variety of shrubs and trees and involves the transition zone from the Chihuahuan Desert to the pinon pine/juniper belt including cacti, yucca, sotol, mahogany and gray oak. **Limit: 20.**

*"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."* – Aldo Leopold

## People and Native Plants: A Journey Through Time 2021 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee OR register individually and pay online at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)

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

**Included in conference fee for in-person participants:** Snacks during conference breaks, Friday & Saturday lunches, Friday evening reception (appetizers & drinks).

**Meals** will include meat and vegetarian choices.

The Saturday evening banquet includes two drinks and is an additional \$30.

Please list any special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

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

Use numbers/letters listed for field trips/workshops:

**Saturday 8/21** 8:00 am–noon 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday 8/22** starts 8 am 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Date	NPSNM Member	Non-Member	
On or Before July 26	\$100	\$130	
*After July 26	\$115	\$145	
Saturday banquet including 2 drinks	\$30	\$30	<b>TOTAL DUE \$ _____</b>

\* Registrations received after August 13 will not include meals

**Please check one:** \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Paid in 2020

**Plan to attend the conference:** \_\_\_\_\_ In person \_\_\_\_\_ Virtually \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided

**Any questions, contact Jennifer Gruger 505-710-2924 or [npsnmotero \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmotero@gmail.com)**

**Send form(s) with check (payable to NPSNM/Otero Chapter) to:**

**Jen Gruger  
712 2nd Street  
Tularosa, NM 88352**

## The Making of a Conference: Take Two

*by Hannah Eisenberg, Santa Fe Chapter*

If the history of the people and plants of Otero county have taught us anything, it's resilience and adaptability: from the traditionally nomadic Mescalero Apaches adapting to the harsh winters of the Sacramento Mountains to Skunkbush Sumac taking root despite the harsh winds on the dunes of White Sands. This image is fitting, too, for 2020, as we all learned to adapt to a global pandemic. I spoke with Jen Gruger of the Otero County chapter of NPSNM about the trials, tribulations, and silver linings of planning and "re-planning" the annual conference in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis.

With the theme, A Journey Through Time in Otero County, Jen reinforces that the relationship between people and plants isn't just about our benefits or our ability to learn from their teachings, but about the cost to the plants of our habitat-destructive behavior. "Our relationship to the land is so important. We have a lot of work to do because of all the damage done," says Jen.

Aldo Leopold has been referenced in previous announcements about the annual conference, and for good reason. His writings on plants, although mostly originating during the 1940s, are just as relevant today. They touch on this central idea of our human impact on plants. To emphasize our relationship to land, the conference agenda traces the plant-human interactions in Otero County over several millenia.

Due to Covid-19, the 2020 annual conference was postponed, a reluctantly made but necessary decision. With adaptations reminiscent of the Skunkbush Sumac, the conference will be back this August. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to attend virtually or in person at the Sgt. Willy Estrada Memorial Civic Center. Those who opt to attend in person can be sure that the venue is taking all precautions to ensure social distancing guidelines are upheld.

Today's technology allows us to connect in ways that would otherwise be impossible. This opportunity wasn't lost on Jen and the Otero Chapter as they worked on hosting this year's conference. Jen was able to draw upon the technical expertise of people like her own daughter, who is an aquarist at the Shedd in Chicago, where she hosts online meetings regularly to ensure that the critical exchange of information can continue during the pandemic.

For the annual conference, Jen considered this exchange of information, too. What is it that makes each conference so important and special? Well, the gathering. Like-minded people come from all over the state each year to share their knowledge, to hear updates on endangered plants, to learn new growing techniques, to go on field trips, and to catch up with old and new friends.

"From a conservation perspective people are hungry for the latest updates." Jen emphasized that this interaction shouldn't be lost in the new blended format. Each talk will have a Q&A session, time for everyone to share their insights and experiences. The organizers have hired an audio-visual professional to create an exceptional experience for those viewing at home.

There are always silver linings, even to the delay of this conference. This time last year Christina Selby's film, *Saving Beauty*, was still in the works. Made with Arturo Anzures, *Saving Beauty* is a film about the rare plants and the lands that hold them close here in New Mexico. The film follows the story of our cienegas and the Pecos sunflower, the dangers they face in our changing climate, and what their future might hold. Partially funded by the Carter Conservation Fund, the film will be screened during this year's conference. An interview by Kathleen Hall in the October 2020 NPSNM newsletter provides more information about Selby and her projects.

"With the exception of a few great additions, the agenda looks strikingly similar to what we had lined up for last year. We're honored that all of the speakers we had will still be able to speak or have found an alternate speaker for us." Notably NPSNM welcomes Archaeobotanist Pam McBride as this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Spellenberg and Dr. Timothy Lowrey to discuss their book (*The Sunflower Family Book: A Guide to Family Asteraceae in the Contiguous United States*), as well as many other local figures to discuss the history of the plants and people of Otero County.

We can all expect a surprise guest too, but Jen is keeping that a secret! You'll have to attend in person or by zoom to find out who this special person is. ❖



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### The Story Behind the Third Edition, *continued from page 7*

the second edition of Jack's well-loved guide to the trees and shrubs of New Mexico, we raised the possibility of a third edition with our dear friends Jack and Martha Carter. Among a number of topics, we expressed to them the need to reflect the most recent changes in botanical nomenclature. Jack was excited by the idea, and he and Martha told us that if the Gila Native Plant Society would pay the editing and printing costs for the new edition, they would be happy for GNPS to have the rights to it.

Jack worked tirelessly on this project until his death. After we lost him in March last year it seemed more important than ever to carry his work forward. His colleague Jennifer Bouslot of Colorado State University soldiered on to finish the update. Sarah Johnson worked on editing and layout. Bill Norris, Russ Kleinman and Bob Sivinski reviewed the final draft. Elroy Limmer contributed the new cover photo of the Lower Box of the Gila. Now, the long process of printing and shipping is complete. Be sure to order your copy from the Gila chapter, which will be the exclusive distributor. ❖

## NPSNM Lifetime Members

Our organization depends on memberships, financial contributions, and service. Your support allows us to further our mission of educating the public about native plants through your passion and dedication to our programs, our outreach, and our grants. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Lifetime Members for their commitment to the NPSNM. ❖

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William Dodson  
Thomas Gibbons  
Grace Gordon  
Lisa Johnston

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Judith Phillips  
Judy Tribble  
Peggy Wells  
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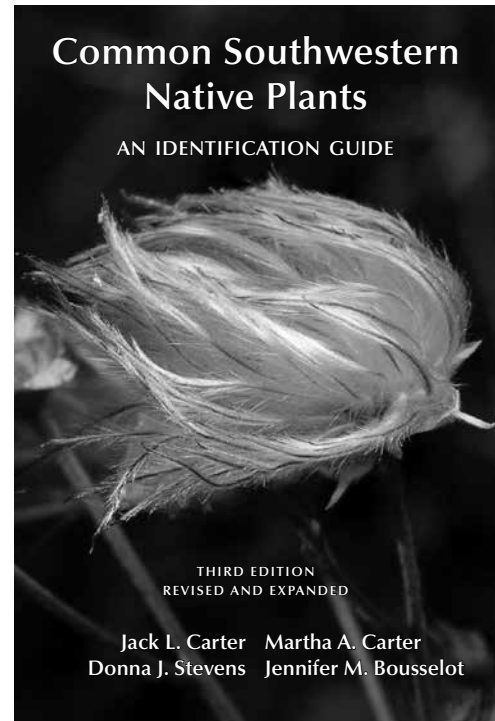
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### Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

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 support 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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**Annual Dues:**

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Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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of the

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**Whether you enjoy it from your armchair at home or from a chair at the conference sessions, you won't want to miss this annual conference as the Otero Chapter hosts us on a Journey Through Time.**

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Gypsum plant stands in White Sands National Park, NM. (Skunkbush sumac)  
Image: Brocken Inaglory. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gypsum\\_plant\\_stand.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gypsum_plant_stand.jpg))



Below: Sacramento Mountains  
Image: G. Thomas. (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SacramentoMtnsNM.jpg>)

<https://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/ImageRepository/Document?documentID=455>.



1890-1910. Unknown photographer. Mescalero Apache women.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mescalero\\_tipis.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mescalero_tipis.jpg)



*Sambucus caerulea* var. *neomexicana*  
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