



# NEWSLETTER

of the

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2022 VOL. XXXXVII NO. 4

GNPS member Les Brandt created the bat mask image of the Lesser Long-nosed Bat, the nectar feeding bat that is most prevalent in Silver City. It is now on the Bat Conservation International website for kids to color and wear. Landowners, BCI staff and volunteers get ready to plant in August this year. Read about the Gila Chapter's agave planting efforts in support of bats on p. 11.

Image: Don Graves, Gila Chapter.



*Agave palmeri* (leftmost stalk) looks similar to *Agave parryi* (rightmost stalk), but has narrower leaves. The flower stalk of *Agave palmeri* is more open with fewer individual flowers. *Agave parryi* var. *parryi* has grayish-green leaves which are usually shorter and stouter than the leaves of *Agave palmeri*. The flowers on the flowering panicle are usually more densely packed on *Agave parryi*. Agave information from [wmnu.edu](http://wmnu.edu), an excellent plant information resource.

Image: Elroy Limmer, Gila Chapter.

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

October–December 2022, Vol. 47 No. 4. 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 November 25, 2022.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Margaret Ménache, *npsnmnewsletter [at] gmail.com*.

**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.

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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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, to conserve water, and as a part of the regional ecosystem in support of native pollinators and other fauna. Members benefit from chapter presentations, field trips, plant and seed exchanges/sales, discounts on publications, a statewide conference, and a network of knowledgeable plant enthusiasts.

Joining is easy through our website, [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org), or by mailing your contact information, local chapter preference (if any), and dues to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176). Yearly dues and donations are tax deductible at \$30 regular individual, \$45 household, \$60 friend of the Society, and \$20 for youth (through 26 years) or PK-12 teacher. Higher supporting levels can be found on our website. ❖

### Don't Miss a Newsletter Issue or an Important Society Email!

- ☞ Has your email address changed?
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Keep us informed so we can keep you informed!

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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,  
contact us at [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm@npsnm.org)**

NPSNM is a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization

## From the President

by Tom Stewart



In my last letter to you all as president of NPSNM, I will not use up much space detailing the wonderful state conference/meeting we just had in Albuquerque. It was a full house; yet, I am sorry not everyone could be there. There was a lot of positive feeling, inspiring examples in restoration and in education, reconnecting the public and upcoming generations with nature. Reports on long-term research gave us new understandings on how rivers, forests, and alpine habitats work. The projects presented by six young investigators, the workshops, and the field trips all got high praises. Thanks go to the Albuquerque Chapter for their great efforts.

The other night I finally watched the video recording of Dr. Steven Loring's July presentation about soil ecology to our Las Cruces Chapter. In just 35 minutes these "notes from the underground" give almost anyone a startling new appreciation for the beautiful relationships and unexpected roles of the organisms beneath and on the surface. To find this, go to our home page (npsnm.org), scroll down and click on Presentations Database near the bottom of the page. It is in Las Cruces Presentations.

Most of us were never taught as youngsters that everything is connected to everything else but now it has become a cliché. I hope that enough of us remember the truth in it and do not pass it off as another feel-good saying. We hear about lots of schemes, politics, and advice for us to "save the planet." Pay attention, do and support what feels right to you. But only nature-based solutions give me real optimism about a future for our species and the beautiful flora and fauna in our world.

We need to reserve every acre of functional, natural land and water that we can. We need all those genes, all the soil structure that remains intact, and every butterfly species and rare, endemic buckwheat species we still have. That sounded radical even ten years ago. But nature cannot pull us through as it has done before if it loses too much of the information (genes) and infrastructure (physical and biologic) it needs for repairing and evolving. To paraphrase an old pop music group, The Four Seasons, "Let's hang on to what we've got, don't let go now, we've got a lot!"

During my rewarding term as president of this 47-year-old Native Plant Society, I have explored and enjoyed its many sides. As a gardener, hiker, naturalist, photographer, perpetual student, conservationist, and amateur researcher, I have gained so much from our diverse member community, the presentations and field experiences, and I have been proud of our providing grants to worthwhile causes, supporting herbaria, and honoring teachers and others who are doing essential work. The work continues in alliance with kindred groups and caring people worldwide. ❖

## Exploring the Trans-Pecos: Texas's Wild West

by Kevin Floyd, El Paso Chapter



Image: Kevin Floyd

The Trans-Pecos region, part of the Chihuahuan Desert, is a landscape of wide-open spaces and few people. Desert grasslands cover the mid elevations, while the sky islands have pine and oak forests. The diversity of elevation, combined with soil variation, lead to surprising plant biodiversity. The El Paso Chapter invites NPSNM members from across the state to join us in Alpine, TX, in 2023 to learn about and explore this amazing part of the region. Field trips, speakers, and workshops await! In a concession to hot weather, the 3-day conference will be held sometime in mid-September through mid-October. Due to logistical constraints, we expect to be able to accommodate no more than 50 people. Dates, registration information, and program details will be provided soon. ❖

## A Land Ethic for Seven Generation

by Kathleen Hall, Albuquerque Chapter

*“We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in.”* — Aldo Leopold

The Native Plant Society annual conference for 2022 was a forest of intricate encounters between plants and people, a prairie of thoughts on resource stewardship, a river of wisdom and advice on how to move forward conscientiously and a mountain of expertise laid out for us all to learn from and enjoy.

The guest experts – botanists, a journalist, artists, ecologists, a rancher and more – joined with our resident experts on the flora of New Mexico to build a conference that was both observant of the precarious state of Earth's natural systems and optimistic that humans are finding resolutions to our global dilemma. Every presenter and field trip leader brought a note of hope to their offerings. Hikes in the East Mountains and field trips to urban areas were rife with that buoyant feeling of opportunity to see, feel and understand the natural world. Workshops invited conference attendees to put their hands on nature, to grow, make, design, eat, and drink in nature.

Presenting a topic to a roomful of critical-thinking naturalists is an exercise in balance. Each expert gave us the bad news, unvarnished and honest. The earth is warming and this will continue to impact our potential for survival. Our appetite for convenience is destroying landscapes and the lives that depend on them. At the same time, these presenters showed us that what remains is worth their efforts and ours. They continue to study, plan, climb up mountains, breathe dust, get muddy, collect data, save specimens, take photos, and bring their work to show and inspire the rest of us.

Arnold Clifford sees the scientific, material, and spiritual aspects of his world as a unified tapestry. The botanist who gathers a specimen is also the geologist who observes the rock formation that generates the soil, and he is also the Navajo who offers reverence to the plant.

Marcy Litvak works at the confluence of five biomes on the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge, measuring increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, recording greater variability in monsoon seasons and documenting the climate crisis. She finds in the details of her work some possibilities for redemption. Black Grama grass germination and growth benefits from drier and more variable weather patterns. In a pinon-juniper landscape, removing all of either species results in lower growth rate and less carbon uptake.

Jason Roback plants seeds of hope for the future in the minds of his high school students. He keeps a living pond populated with native species outside his biology classroom, a pond whose life is brief and messy, always moving toward marsh and meadow. Still he persists because he has identified The Great Nature Discon-

nect and as a teacher this is what he can Do About It. He gives his students nature.

A.T. Cole understands the causes of damage of the ranchland he belongs to: overgrazing, ditches that move water faster, the eradication of beaver, the many misuses of fragile land. He focuses today on restoring a Cienega, building erosion control structures with fallen trees, chunks of log, newly planted shrubs. He becomes the missing beaver.

Every talk and hike and workshop was, in the end, about hope and action. About planting the trees under whose shade we do not expect to sit. And what can each of us do to move forward in this daunting time? Many offered advice or ideas that could be taken as actions by attendees as part of their presentations. A few examples:

Lay down on the ground next to a plant and say “Hello, Plant...”  
Arnold Clifford, Native Scholar, Botanist and Geologist

Stop eating meat.  
Stop driving a car.  
Stop flying.

A.T. Cole, Rancher and Lawyer

Most of us have forgotten that we are connected to each other and to nature. We are one.  
Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology, UBC

People who live close to green spaces have...better problem-solving ability.  
Jason Roback, Sandia High School Biology Teacher

Love a mesquite.  
Hollis Moore, Artist and Landscape Designer

Go to the places you love. Commit to them.  
Laura Paskus, Environmental Journalist

Have to start talking to people you don't talk to.  
Jim McGrath, Carter Conservation Champion, 2022

When the last auction items were collected and the last hikers headed home, we had some ideas to think about, some inspiration, and something most of us gain and lose in waves with each news cycle – hope. Eleven speakers and countless field trip guides, workshop leaders and poster presenters poured their hope onto us. Now it's the turn of each attendee to carry that connection to our chapters, to share what people are doing. We are conduits in a network. If you attended the banquet you heard Laura Paskus remind us that we must do the uncomfortable, hard work of facing the issues. If you weren't able to attend the conference, find someone in your chapter who did and ask them to share their thoughts, their hopes. Then decide what you will do together to be part of the great work of healing our planet. ❖

## Jim McGrath: Carter Conservation Champion

by Tom Stewart, Albuquerque Chapter

The Albuquerque Chapter honored Jim McGrath at this year's conference for his botanical contributions during his career and for his advocacy for wetlands in the Zuni Mountains during the last decade.



Jim McGrath, left, speaks with a student, sharing his plant knowledge. Image: Tom Stewart

Jim was drafted into the US Army during the Vietnam era, which helped him gain employment with the National Park Service. After earning a B.S. in Botany and Ecology and an M.S. in Zoology (U of Illinois, Carbondale), he worked in Yellowstone National Park mapping wetlands for four years. He later worked in Bandelier National Monument as Assistant Ecologist, then in five other national parks as an interpretive ranger. As an independent professional, he specialized in wetland delineations and rare plant surveys, essential elements of environmental impact statements.

He has had an ongoing interest in Little Water Canyon (LWC) in the Zuni Mountains — an area of special ecological value with a perennial stream and a rare spruce-dogwood community. He brought Albuquerque members to the remote site, only to find that cattle were trampling and eroding the stream bank. Distressed by this unexpected problem and with new motivation, he and Sue Small endeavored to impress upon the Mount Taylor ranger district of Cibola National Forest the gravity and urgency of the situation. They also encouraged other Albuquerque members to participate in the Zuni Mountains Collaborative, establishing the Native Plant Society as a stakeholder in forest management planning.

Jim worked overtime in bringing parties together, including the grazing allotment holder, the District Ranger, a mediation specialist, and an avian biologist with years of bird records. He submitted substantive comments to the Forest Service during the

*Continued page 7*

## Remembering David Salman

by Judith Phillips, Albuquerque Chapter

With the death of David Salman on June 5, 2022, New Mexico lost an ardent advocate for native plants and wild places. Founder of Santa Fe Greenhouses, High Country Gardens, and Waterwise Gardening, David was a persistent and evolving voice that bridged the sometimes divergent interests of native plant conservation and the cultivation of native species in designed landscapes. He had a keen eye for natives that might both appeal to gardeners and adapt to garden conditions, and he had the persistence to introduce to horticulture “new” plants that are beautiful and ecologically apt, using, by most garden standards, very little water.

A self-professed “plant nerd”, David traveled the Southwest extensively, often in the company of other partners in chlorophyll\*, learning the arid landscape and falling in love with plants he was compelled to share with others. And share he did. David Salman, with the help of his wife Ava and her marketing savvy, introduced hundreds of native plants to an impressively wide audience in a seductive but practical way, not only lauding the beauty but providing cultural information so that gardeners could grow the plants well. David told the stories of native plants, their preferred growing conditions, and seasonal growth habits. With a designer's eye, he suggested plant companions for his newest favorites that amplified their assets. Lessons he learned in the extensive demonstration gardens at Santa Fe Greenhouses found their way into High Country Gardens catalogs and into articles he wrote and presentations that he gave.

An appreciation for the native species that he found filling ecological niches such as dry mesa desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*) from Nevada and riparian Colorado barberry (*Berberis fendleri*) from nearby Mora led him to propagate and promote them. In the quest for “new” stars to add to the water-wise garden firmament, he hybridized Agastache species with joyful abandon. One of his most successful crosses introduced in the early 2000s, ‘Ava's hummingbird mint’ (*Agastache cana x barberi*), is outstanding for its vigor as well as for its long color season. Quoting David from the High Country website: “Unlike any other Agastache I've

*Continued page 9*



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# Native Plant Society of New Mexico Election of Officers 2022

The Society elects its officers every two years according to the bylaws. Nominees for the 2023-2025 term are shown below, although write-in candidates and self-nominations are welcome as the ballot below accommodates. Photocopy or cut out the ballot printed below for mail-in submission. For email voting, scan or snap your completed ballot with a smart phone and send to ask.npsnm [at] npsnm.org, subject line “election.” **Your vote must be received by November 30, 2022.**

## Slate of Candidates

**President:**

**Don and Wendy Graves**, Gila Chapter

Don Graves taught Biology at the community college level for over thirty years. Working with youth has always been a special focus; Don has led high school students in summer work projects in national parks across the Midwest. He is currently the president of the Gila Chapter.

Wendy Graves retired to Silver City from her career as instructor of Physics and Mathematics at the community college level. She has been actively engaged in learning about New Mexico flora and its environment. She has been an officer in the Gila Chapter for two terms, and has been facilitating the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee for the past two years.

**Vice President:**

**Jonathan Tanis**, Albuquerque Chapter

Jonathan moved to Albuquerque about a year ago with his partner Ilan. He first became interested in native plants while doing undergraduate ethnography at Hopi, and later did a masters in Agroecology, managed a community farm in California and designed native plant gardens. He currently works on habitat restoration projects in NM and the greater southwest.

**Documentarian:**

**Kathleen Hall**, Albuquerque Chapter

Kathleen arrived in NM in 2000 from the Pacific Northwest, attracted to high desert landscapes, the scent of rain, and planting seeds. Her background in journalism and STEM, volunteer ethic, interest in collaborative actions, curiosity and passion for digging into details will be assets in the role of Documentarian. Kathleen contributes regularly to this newsletter.

**Recording Secretary:**

**Jane Kruse**, Gila Chapter, incumbent of 5 years

Retired clinical pharmacist, mother of three adult children.

**Treasurer:**

**Tom Stewart**, Albuquerque Chapter

A former NPSNM President, he began his career picking chile peppers in Mesilla Park and recently retired from Sandia National Laboratories, Geochemistry Department where he was an environmental scientist.

## NPSNM 2022 Election Ballot

(make up to two copies for family memberships)

I (sign name) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter

choose the following members to serve in the designated offices for the next two years. (Write in alternative candidates if desired.)

Office: Candidate

Write-In Candidate

President: Don & Wendy Graves ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Vice President: Jonathan Tanis ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Documentarian: Kathleen Hall ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Treasurer: Tom Stewart ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Send ballots to NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176,

or email your votes to ask.npsnm [at] npsnm.org.

## Notice of Bylaw Changes

Our Board of Directors (officers and chapter representatives) has voted to update bylaws section III, as shown below. A full copy of the Bylaws is available at our website: <https://www.npsnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/newly-revised-by-laws-2012.pdf>. The position title of “Membership Secretary” has been meaningless for several years, and that officer has become instead a document specialist, relieving other officers of organizing and storage burdens. In accordance with our bylaws, members have 30 days to comment on these changes. The changes will be effective on November 1.

### 2012 Bylaws Section III

1. A President, who will lead the organization and will call and preside over all regular meetings of NPSNM.
2. A Vice-President, who will assist the President and preside in the absence of the President.
3. A Recording Secretary, who will prepare the annual report, record the minutes of Board meetings, maintain a record of policies currently in effect, record election results, and keep the NPSNM historical records.
4. A Membership Secretary, who will distribute and receive membership applications, collect dues, maintain a list of members, and work with chapter Membership Secretaries to monitor the status of members.
5. A Treasurer, who will handle all funds and maintain a balance sheet showing the Society's financial status. The Treasurer will see to the safe and orderly storage of each year's financial records and participate in the NPSNM Finance and Investment Committee.

### 2022 Bylaws Section III

1. The President of the Society shall schedule and preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and shall assure that actions of NPSNM are consistent with its mission. The President prepares an annual report and shares signature authority on financial accounts with the Treasurer.
2. Vice President: no change proposed.
3. The Recording Secretary shall record minutes of Board meetings, shall endorse an official copy of each meeting's minutes as approved by the Board, and document votes of the Board made remotely between meetings.
4. The Documentarian is responsible for the procurement and security (physical and electronic) of official Society records of legal and historic importance, in cooperation with other officers and chapter leaders as needed in this duty.
5. The Treasurer shares signature authority on financial accounts with the President, pays the Society's obligations from its bank account, and maintains a balance sheet of all financial transactions. The Treasurer participates in the Finance and Investment Committee, and reports the financial status of the Society to the Board on request.
6. Interpretations or additions to these responsibilities are to be approved by the Board and recorded as policies in effect, available for public inspection.

## Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

**Note from the Editor:** Rachel is taking a break from her long years (since 2014) of uninterrupted provision of conservation updates. We look forward to her return to this column in the new year. ❖



### Conservation Champion, Continued from page 5

management plan revision process, emphasizing the need for special management of the LWC and other areas.

Jim went to Shush Ken Fen, the historic but seldom visited headwaters of Bluewater Creek, only to find it ecologically degraded as a wetland by cattle intrusion. He brought up its condition at the Wetlands Roundtable, convened by the New Mexico Environment Department. The outcome of concerted efforts by Jim and others of like mind is that the final Forest Management Plan released this year gives LWC Wild and Scenic River status and provides for a sturdy cattle exclusion fence around Shush Ken Fen. ❖

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## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on upcoming events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page: 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. **Please check with your chapter for any Covid-19 restrictions they are encouraging or requiring and for any restrictions the event venues might require.** **Fire** is causing many changes or outright cancellations to scheduled field trips. **Please check with your chapter to be sure you know the current status of any event listed here.** ❖

### Albuquerque

Monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. For more information and updated locations, contact Sara Keeney at [skeeney \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:skeeney@swcp.com), 505-379-3392, or check the Albuquerque Chapter page of [npsnm.org](http://npsnm.org).

**Oct 5 Meeting.** Location: UNM Continuing Ed Building, Room C, 1634 University Blvd. NE. "Combined Effects of Global Warming/Climate Change, Drought, and Secondary Impacts from Forest Pests on Western Montane Forests." Jim Nellessen, of the NM Environment Department, will discuss conditions in New Mexico forests. His talk will draw upon our accumulated knowledge and observations on global warming, discuss the impacts that greenhouse gases are having on the ecological interactions between plant species, and additional secondary impacts montane forests are experiencing from pests.

**Nov 2 Meeting.** Location TBD. "Lichens: mysterious and beautiful." Jason Roback, natural science teacher at Sandia High School, will share his recent research on lichens in the Sabinoso Wilderness. The talk will include a broad introduction to what lichens are, their evolution and their role in the environment. He will share results of a study on lichen diversity and abundance related to varied habitats.

**Dec 3 Annual holiday potluck and officers election.** Location TBD. Watch mailings and Facebook for more communication about the Annual Chapter Meeting.

### 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: Kevin Floyd, 915-747-6665; [kwfloyd \[at\] utep.edu](mailto:kwfloyd@utep.edu); and, <https://www.facebook.com/Native-Plant-Society-of-New-Mexico-El-Paso-Chapter-191913520833180>.

**Oct 1** All are welcome to attend UTEP's FloraFest Native Plant Sale starting at 9:00 am ([www.utep.edu/florafest](http://www.utep.edu/florafest)). Check the website for event details and requirements. Our **Sep 8** meeting was a wonderful event to explore the desert, learn about plants in the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens (led by Botanical Curator Dr. Kevin Floyd), and see plants likely to be available at the FloraFest event.

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**Oct 13 Meeting:** Topic and speaker TBA.

**Nov 10 Meeting:** Topic and speaker TBA.

**Dec 8 Meeting:** Topic and speaker TBA.

### Gila (Silver City)

Monthly evening programs will resume in October. Gila Chapter and Audubon members will receive a Zoom link by email; any others interested may request a link from [gilanative \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:gilanative@gmail.com). All are welcome. For more information check our website at [www.gilanps.org/events/programs](http://www.gilanps.org/events/programs). For field trips, a hat, water and sturdy shoes are recommended. Bring your hand lens, if you have one. Participants will be expected to sign a waiver before the field trip.

**Oct 8 Field Trip.** 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. "Learn Your Trees II." Don Graves will lead his popular field trip for those new to the area or those who just want to brush up on their Gila trees and shrubs. Participants will learn some botany basics, understand how plants are named, and how to use a botanical key to identify local trees. No need to have participated in the first session. Meet at 8:00 am at the Silva Creek Botanical Garden on N. Virginia Street and carpool if you feel comfortable. We will head to the Iron Bridge area, which will include some riparian species.

**Oct 15 Field Trip.** 9:00 am to 11:00 am. City of Rocks State Park. The Friends of the City of Rocks and the Gila Chapter are co-sponsoring a botany hike to the Cienega Trail to see what the monsoon season has brought out. Russ Kleinman, Ed Leuck, and Don Graves will lead the trip. Participants should meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot by the Cienega Trail near the entrance to the park off route 61.

**Oct 28 Meeting via Zoom.** "Wildflowers of Colorado." Mary O. and Jeff Parker of Explore in Focus. The San Juan Mountains of Colorado near Silverton and Ouray host thousands of wildflowers each July. Jeff and Mary O. will share images and tidbits about these beauties during their presentation. They'll also talk about why the flowers grow so prolifically in those mountain basins and high meadows.

**Nov 18 Meeting via Zoom.** "*Cirsium grahamii*: A Rare Purple Jewel in the Gila Wilderness." John Gorey.

While doing invasive plant surveys in the Gila Wilderness John came across an unusual purple thistle. He keyed it out as *Cirsium grahamii*, which had not been collected in nearly 20 years. Thanks to a 2022 Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund grant, he has been able to scour the wilderness for the thistle and unlock some of its secrets. Join us to learn more.

### Las Cruces

We are pleased to announce that our Chapter has resumed in-person meetings on the NMSU campus in the Biology Annex, Herbarium Building, 3080 Williams Avenue, Room 101 on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**Oct 12 Meeting.** "Plant Communication and Facilitation: plant-to-



plant, plant-to-microbe, and plant-to-insect interactions.” Dr. Donovan Bailey. Donovan is an NMSU Biology Professor, researching the plant evolutionary relationships, patterns of speciation and diversification, and genomic evolution.

**Oct 14** Field Trip. Jornada Field Botany Workshop led by Kirsten Romig, Cowgirl Botanist, Jornada Experimental Range. All-day trip to northern San Andres National Wildlife Refuge. Additional information to be provided. Reservations required.

**Nov 9** Meeting. “Trends in sustainable agriculture.” Dr. Rachel Gioanini, Assistant Professor in Horticulture in the Plant and Environmental Sciences Department at NMSU. Her areas of expertise are ornamental plants and landscape design. She also teaches courses in hydroponics, forestry and introductory plant science. She will speak about alternatives to conventional agricultural practices, including hydroponics/aquaponics, ocean farming, agrivoltaics, sustainable protein and meat production, agroforestry, and urban farming

**Nov 12** Field Trip: 9:00 a.m. NMSU campus, Skeen Hall, on Knox Street and University. Tour of hydroponics greenhouse.

**Dec** No meeting.

### 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 Gruger, [jengruger \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:jengruger[at]gmail.com), 505-710-2924. More information will be available by the beginning of each month.

**Oct 8** Field Trip. White Sands National Park. A walk on the edge of the sands to learn about what is there to find. Meet in front of the administrative offices at 9:00 am to carpool into the area we will be looking at.

**Nov 19** Field Trip. La Cueva Loop Trail. Moderate. Includes historic sites, rock formations, a riparian area, and a hermit's cave. The trail is located in the Organ Mountain - Desert Peaks National Monument, just on the other side of the Organ Mountains from the Tularosa Basin. Meet at 9:00 am at the White Sands National Park front parking lot to carpool and get directions.

**Dec** No field trip, just time for family and friends to gather.

### Santa Fe

Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month starting in September at 6:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St. Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso). We hope to livestream talks via Zoom. For more information, check the NPSNM website. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

We encourage members to post plant lists from recent walks on the Santa Fe Chapter's listserve by emailing Tom Antonio at [tom \[at\] thomasantonio.org](mailto:tom[at]thomasantonio.org). This will let other members know what trails to try and what is flowering and fruiting!

### Taos

Unless noted otherwise on the website, meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Videos of past meetings can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos>. For updates, check the Taos page on the NPSNM website, our Facebook page (search for “Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter”), the Taos News Calendar, email [Taos-NPS \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:Taos-NPS[at]gmail.com), or phone Jan Martenson at 575-751-0511. If you're on our mailing list you will get notifications by email.

**Oct 26** Meeting. “Building an Herbarium at the Institute for Applied Ecology.” Renee Galeano-Popp, Botanist/Ecologist.

**Nov** No meeting.

**Dec** No meeting. ❖

### Remembering David Salman, *Continued from page 5*



The dry mesa desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*) David fell in love with. Still in front of an old ruin, the tree was growing happily in Kingston, Lander County, NV. Image: David Salman

grown, Ava's calyxes retain their intense coloration keeping the plant beautiful until hard frost.” This hybrid was named for his wife and we teased him that since he'd found the best, could he abandon his tinkering? His reply was a non-committal, “Well Ava's certainly the most colorful.”

Often the natives he propagated were simple selections of particularly fine specimens. ‘Blond Ambition’ blue grama *Bouteloua gracilis* is a newer release that is robust enough to use as a small-scale ornamental, and resilient enough to bounce back after being buried in heavy wet snow. ‘Standing Ovation’ little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* is another addition to his palette of garden-worthy native grasses.

I'll confess to ambivalence about hybridizing and selecting native plants. Viewed through an ecological lens, limiting the gene pool and therefore the plant's potential evolutionary nimbleness can't be a good thing, yet Ava's Agastache tolerates cold better than either of her parents and ‘Blond Ambition’ is planted in more gardens than the species is likely to be, a benefit to butterflies and songbirds regionally.

A greater degree of consistency is expected in garden plants and is key to the assimilation of natives into mainstream horticulture. David Salman, my kind and generous friend, an insatiably curious plantsman, was a master who balanced the value of getting great natives into gardens once dominated by lawns and petunias, with devotion to the still wild landscapes of the Southwest and the treasure of the native plants he found there. He will be missed. ❖

\*Thanks to Andrew Lisignoli for the term and the partnership.

## In Memoriam: Carolyn Dodson

by Jim McGrath, Albuquerque Chapter



Carolyn could often be found engaging in one of her passions — photographing wild flowers. Image: George Miller

In July we lost one of our longest serving and reliable Native Plant Society of NM members — Carolyn Dodson. In recent years Albuquerque Chapter members knew Carolyn as the quiet lady who sat in the back of the monthly meeting room selling gardening and natural history books to members at a discount. She performed that role for at least ten years until she could no longer do it. She attended Native Plant Society Annual meetings regularly until she could no longer do that either. Current Albuquerque Chapter members may not recall, but Carolyn served as chapter president from 1998 to 2000. I remember this because I recall joining a field trip in 1999. After the field trip we got lunch at a local restaurant where Carolyn and Virginia Burris, who was about to replace Carolyn as president, talked me into serving as vice-president.

Carolyn's contribution to natural history and gardening was far greater than just selling books, attending meetings, and serving a term as chapter president. I first met Carolyn when she and I took a course in Pollination Biology at UNM in 1988. Carolyn's research topic was the adaptations that wildflowers use to attract pollinators. Carolyn was beating the drum about pollinators before it became fashionable to do so.

Carolyn loved wildflowers so much that she taught a summertime course in wildflowers at UNM Continuing Ed during the 1990s and perhaps the early 2000s. Field trips were part of the course. She would return to the same places every year: San Gregorio Reservoir, East fork of the Jemez Mountains, Pine Flat in the Sandia Mountains to see the Pasque flower, Sandia Crest to find the Calypso orchid. She developed friendships with her students and the course may have stimulated them to learn more about wildflowers. Long after Carolyn stopped leading such field trips, the Albuquerque Chapter continued to organize field trips to these destinations.

During the 1990s and perhaps the late 1980s Carolyn and others organized an informal group called the Wildflower Society, with more emphasis on wildflowers than the broader interests of the NPSNM. Members showed slides of wildflowers from previ-

ous vacation trips during the meeting. Robert DeWitt Ivey, author of *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, was also a major player in the Wildflower Society.

Carolyn expressed her love for native plants and wildflowers in yet another way: she was author or co-author of three books. *Central New Mexico Gardens*: Carolyn was lead author of this joint effort involving several contributors. Published in 2005, it is still sold at the Albuquerque Chapter tabling events.

*Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies*. Published in 2007, William Dunmire was a co-author. Walter Graf provided the drawings.

*A Guide to Plants of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert*. With drawings by Robert De Witt Ivey, this gem was published in 2012.

In addition to all these activities and accomplishments, Carolyn served as a Librarian at UNM for 19 years. She was fond of snorkeling trips to far away places. A friend recalls the time she began talking to friends about her planned snorkeling trip to Palau. In the end she wound up with five of her friends joining her on that adventure.

And – oh, yes – I can't forget the turtles in her back yard. She had pet turtles. The turtles would come out from hiding when they knew she had some food for them.

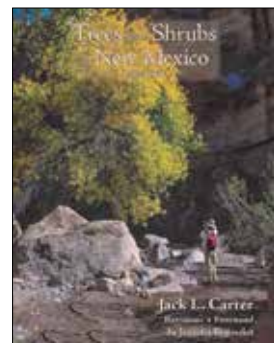
In short Carolyn lived a very productive life and was an exemplary member of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. She will be missed. ❖

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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 Plants, Pollinators, and People

by Dr. Paul J. Polechla Jr., Ph.D., CCF Recipient

The impacts of urbanization and climate change on pollinator population decreases and loss of native plants are common knowledge: that many pollinators depend on native plants exacerbates the declines. Because it is estimated the two of every three bites of our food depend directly or indirectly on the pollination efforts of native bees, improving awareness of these relationships while actively working to restore appropriate habitat is critical.

New Mexico is blessed with a wide diversity of native woody plants that include trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, desert succulents, cacti, and vines. These plants are stressed by urbanization, competition from non-native plants, and over-grazing among other factors. Pollinators, which rely largely on native plants, have been negatively impacted by current nationwide policies (Wilson and Carril 2018).

Using two study sites in urban Albuquerque, we have been working to develop landscapes that will be sustainable in the long term, support the native plants necessary for native pollinators, and be of benefit to the people who use this land for agricultural, ritual, educational and recreational purposes. The planting areas are the McEwen Site and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center's Resilience Garden. The redevelopment of these two sites between September 2020 and September 2021 provides a focal point to increase awareness of the decline in native bee populations. The practical examples of restored habitat can be used by visitors to engage in similar efforts in their own yards.

This ongoing project has received funding from the Carter Conservation Fund and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (Award Number NR208C30XXXXC010). Additional support has come from Tree New Mexico, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, University of New Mexico Hospital, Lee Graham and Ralph Peters of the New Mexico Cactus and Succulent Society, John "Obie" Oberhausen of Cactus Rescue, Steven Flores, and M. Armijo. Portions of this article have been taken from our final report to the USDA.

Continued page 12

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## Gila Native Plant Society teams up with Bat Conservation International

This summer the Gila Chapter collaborated with Bat Conservation International (BCI) on its project to plant agaves to support nectar-feeding bats. One of the project's objectives is to restore



Lesser long-nosed bat. Image: Elroy Limmer

foraging habitat along migratory corridors in the borderlands, focusing on increasing densities of flowering agaves. BCI's 10-year plan calls for expansive agave plantings and better management of agave habitat throughout the region.

We in the Gila Chapter are keenly aware of the importance of interactions between native plants and their pollinators. To support this worthwhile project in our area, GNPS President Don Graves located six willing landowners in or near Silver City with adequate acreage and suitable habitat. Early in August GNPS volunteers helped BCI plant 50 agave plants on each property – a mix of *Agave parryii* and *A. palmeri* – for a total of 300 plants. The planting was directed by Montana Horchler, Ethan Sandoval and Daya Butler of BCI. The young agave plants were grown at the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona nursery in Safford, AZ.

Why agaves and why bats? Here's what BCI has to say on its website (<https://www.batcon.org/our-work/protect-restore-landscapes/agave-restoration/>): "Three species of nectar-feeding bats serve as primary pollinators for important desert plants in Mexico and the southwestern United States. Roost disturbance and habitat loss has led to the rapid decline of these bats.... Pollinator species such as the Mexican long-nosed bat and the Lesser long-nosed bat rely on agave nectar throughout their migratory range, and, as agave bloom at night, these plants rely heavily on these nocturnal pollinators."

According to Montana Horchler, Restoration Technician at BCI, "BCI works with private landowners, the public, and public lands management agencies to increase abundance of agave on the landscape in critical migratory corridors of nectar-feeding bats. One of the ways we do this is to work in partnership with landowners to plant agave on their properties."

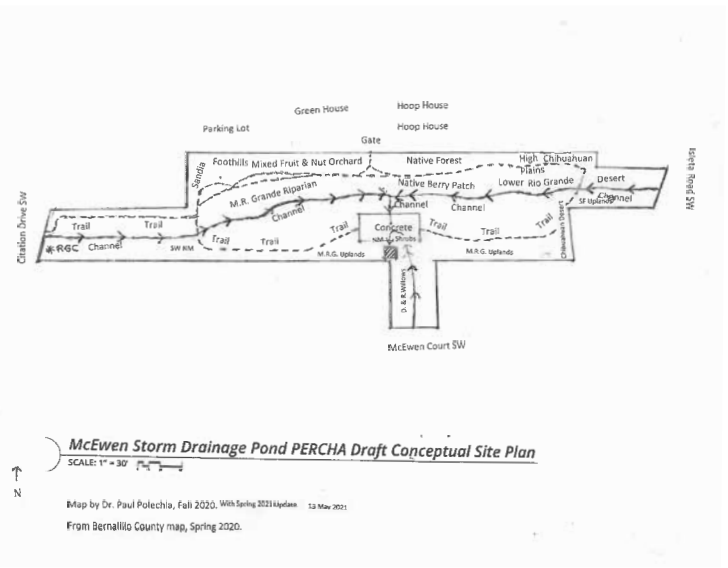
Three nectar-dependent bats migrate through the Silver City area: the Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*), the Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) and the Mexican long-nosed bat (*L. nivalis*). Many Silver City residents noticed *L. yerbabuena* coming to their hummingbird feeders last summer. The Gila Chapter hopes to provide them with more of their natural food sources. ❖

Native Plants, Pollinators, and People, Continued from page 11

**McEwen Site**

The McEwen site consists of 2.6 acres located in the unincorporated South Valley in central New Mexico. Although sometimes called the McEwen “Pond,” it is actually a Bernalillo County stormwater drainage channel that lies across from Ernie Pyle Middle School, off Isleta Road. Owned by the residents of Bernalillo County, it has been leased to 1st Choice Community Healthcare Inc. Table 1 highlights some of the benefits of this Bernalillo County Open Space project.

The McEwen site, along with other Bernalillo County properties, is part of a network of sites, that Barney & the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2019) call “Prescribed Endemic Refuge Connected Habitat Areas” (PERCHAs). This PERCHA plan will create a habitat connection to the Middle Rio Grande so that riparian wildlife can have cover when traveling to and from protected areas. The water quality/quantity enhancing capabilities of the multi-purpose site are so strong that the U.S. Geological Survey has three water monitoring sites on the premises.



**Table 1. Purpose of the Plantings at the McEwen Site**

- food and habitat for Native New Mexico pollinators (bees, butterflies, other insects, hummingbirds)
- energy and nutrient-rich human food
- herbs for medicinal and culinary usage
- extraction of heavy metals from soils (phyto-extraction)
- fixation of nitrogen into the soil
- control of erosion
- reduction in storm-water run-off by plant root water uptake
- sequestration of carbon
- production of oxygen to capture particulate matter in air column for pollution abatement
- increased aesthetics of the area planted
- a park for recreation
- production of food and habitat for other wild-life
- reduction of the energy usage in the area bordering residents by summer shading and winter insulation, and
- reduction in crime rate

A trail around the perimeter, a sandstone amphitheater, educational signage, and a wildlife viewing area will complete the open space and provide recreational and educational opportunities for community members and visitors alike.

Preliminary work focused on hardscape: installation of an irrigation system on the north side, planning a simulated habitat map of the site, and making decisions on plant selection and placement. An irrigation system was not installed on the south side. All totaled, the length of the PVC in the entire system is 1,188.6 ft. The approximately 1/3rd of a mile trail was completed during the spring of 2021.

Preparation of the site for planting included removal of exotic and invasive plant species as well as selecting native plants. I removed more than 600 exotic trees with a mattock or a Pulaski (with assistance from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps) including Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*), and northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*). Exotic forb species removed by Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Jedrek Lamb, and me include ragweed (*Kochia* spp.) and tumbleweed (*Salsola kali*).

Plant species were selected based on being native to central New Mexico and belonging to one of the ecological regions shown in Table 2. I selected locations to plant the woody native plants based on habitat (macro- and micro-) and other factors critical for plant success. Native plant species that fit that ecological region and specific microhabitat at McEwen were selected. When placing a plant species which naturally grows at a different elevation or latitude, I choose locations that might best simulate the plants preferred habitat.

**Table 2. The McEwen Site Simulated Ecological Regions**

- Sandia Foothills
- Mixed Fruit and Nut Orchard
- Native Forest
- Native Berry Patch
- High Plains Prairie
- Chihuahuan Desert
- Middle Rio Grande Bosque
- Lower Rio Grande Bosque

Subsequent articles will provide information on the selection and planting of native plants, information on their survival rates thus far, and lessons learned on this effort at sustainable plant restoration efforts.

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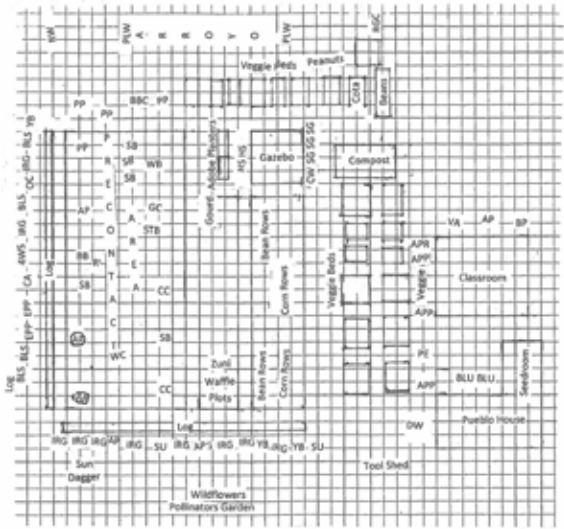
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Continued next page

### Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC)

The IPCC's Resilience Garden is 0.3 acres in size and has an arroyo on the western side that receives runoff from the parking lot to the south. A covered storm drain is located just northwest of the garden. Rain catchment barrels collect water off the roof of the Seed and Pueblo houses. I built ten check dams to slow parking lot runoff and allow rainwater to infiltrate more deeply into the soil. Four ollas, unglazed clay pots, were installed for watering in the raised beds in which wildflowers were planted.

The garden is divided into the Pre-Contact area on the southern side and



**Table 3. Purpose of the Plantings at the IPCC Site**

- energy and nutrient-rich human food
- herbs for medicinal and culinary usage
- informal educational opportunities about nutritional value of native plants
- food and habitat for native NM pollinators
- shady areas to rest
- additional beautification of the IPCC campus
- ecological services for the neighborhood.

Post-Contact area on the northern side. Table 3 highlights the expected benefits of this project site.

We cleared the Pre-Contact area of weeds, applied mulch, and placed cobblestones in about twenty-four circles for planting native grasses and forbs. An adobe raised bed was refurbished with new organic adobes. A Native Wildflower garden was established along the 12th Street wrought iron fence and ringed with cobblestone: the dragonfly effigy ceramic sculpture was used as a centerpiece.

Existing tree branches were trimmed in the cool season. Particular attention was given to trimming branches that crossed, branches that were directed into the canopy, and dead branches. Cuts were made so that trunk bark would grow over the cut and heal properly.

The Pre-contact area features the native plants that ancestral and early Pueblo people procured during their hunting and gathering period. The Post-contact area features the crop species domesticated by Pueblo and other Native peoples as well as crop species domesticated by people from other parts of the world. The food plants include the Three Sisters crop species of corn (*Zea mays*), beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), and winter squash (*Cucurbita pepo*). There is a Salsa Garden with Pueblo landrace chiles (*Capsicum annuum*), heirloom tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*), Spanish onions (*Allium cepa*), and cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*). Crop species that global agriculture provided to the Pueblo people are included in the Salsa Garden.

Subsequent articles will provide information on the continued management of the site, information on the culinary and medicinal plants, and lessons learned on this effort at sustainable plant restoration efforts.

### Other Work

Educational outreach has been core to our work. During the course of the year, we had a total of nine different events (talks or walks) at seven different places (virtual or real) at nine different venues. The events consisted of fourteen hours of programming, with 163 slides or pages of presentations and one set of 10 flash cards, serving 163 participants. The web page devoted to pollinators contains: 17 pages of content with 28 illustrations (one-line drawing and 27 photos and 26 species of bees), a listing of 32 native New Mexico trees and shrubs, plus three vines, eight cacti, seven succulents, and eight references for further information. We encourage you to visit our web page at: <https://treenm.org/2021/05/05/bees-and-trees-that-please-in-new-mexico/>

We anticipated difficulties in establishing new plants during the drought and other impacts of climate change, which we have documented to help gardeners, landscape designers, city planners, and farmers as they work with plants in a changing climate. We also experienced the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic including a labor shortage that impacted our ability to accomplish our work. Finally,

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there are always the unexpected things that go wrong and require adjustments in plans: lack of lease agreement between the lessee and lessor, and security breaches at a neighboring greenhouse that supplied water. The challenges we faced are those faced by anyone embarking on a large project extended over multiple years. We hope our experiences will help others as they work to create more sustainable landscapes whether these are primarily for pollinator habitat or for a combination of plants to benefit humans as well as pollinators. We wish to thank the Carter Conservation Fund for their support of this work. ❖

## Recognizing Members

The NPSNM would like to thank all members who have made monetary contributions above their regular dues. This list, which covers August 16, 2021 through August 15, 2022, includes those who sent in extra contributions with their memberships. It doesn't recognize the other financial contributions people make throughout the year or the contributions of cooperation and energy from the wonderful members of this volunteer organization. The NPSNM thanks all of you for your support, whatever form it takes.

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Jeff and Mary O. Parker

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**Deductions on your federal income tax have reverted to pre-Covid requirements and limitations.**

**Check with the IRS or your tax preparer for details.**

## Carter Conservation Fund Donors

The NPSNM would like to thank all who have contributed to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund from August 16, 2021 through August 15, 2022. This fund was created to assist the NPSNM in maintaining a balanced budget while continuing to increase the funds available for conservation research and educational grants to individuals and organizations. It is a long-term endowment fund and your contributions enable the NPSNM to expand its support of programs, research, and education for those involved in the study of native plants. Every dollar we receive is important and we deeply appreciate your support.

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### Interested in Applying for a Grant?

Applicants may send in their proposals any time of the year until December 31. Guidelines for applying and an application form may be found on the website. It is important for applicants to follow these guidelines so the proposals are consistent for the review process. The proposals are studied by the statewide members of the NPSNM Board and voted on at the winter Board Meeting, usually at the end of January.

The Carter Conservation Fund awards for grants are sent in February, while gifts in support of the regional herbaria are sent later in spring or early summer. The Carter Fund also finances an award to a Conservation Champion, chosen by the chapter hosting the statewide annual conference and presented to the individual at the conference banquet.

The money available for grants each year comes from donations during the previous twelve months and from any earnings on our investments. The Board has typically awarded grants to ten or more projects per year, with grants limited to \$1500 each. However, they have recently opted for higher awards in support of strong proposals with a greater impact for conservation, even if that necessitates fewer grants in a given year.

The NPSNM Policies in Effect document lays down criteria for awarding the grants, management of the fund, and establishes responsibilities for the awardees. The bylaws of the organization and the policies in effect are available for viewing by anyone on our website under Chapters/Statewide Organization. ❖

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Above: The room was filled as members settled in for some amazing talks. The required masks didn't interfere with the excitement and energy of the meeting. Image: Madeleine Woodward

The images here only hint at the diversity of talks, field trips, and workshops participants enjoyed during the August annual meeting. Read Kathleen Hall's summary and quick sketches of many of the talks on page 4.



Above: Sylvan Kaufman captured the vista from the Sandia North Peak hike.

Below: Vicky Ramakka enjoyed the Ojito Wilderness field trip that was led by Steve Rospopo (in the green shirt.)



Left: New curator Hannah Marx led a tour of the UNM Herbarium. The oldest specimen, *Quercus fendleri*, was collected in 1847 by Augustus Fendler. Image: Vicky Ramakka



Above: Paul Polechla reports on the work he has done with his 2021 Carter Conservation Fund award on page 11.



**The El Paso Chapter is already planning the 2023 meeting. If you've never heard of Alpine, Texas, it's time to learn more about it. Spaces will be limited so you won't want to miss this one. Read more on page 3.**