

NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



NEWSLETTER

of the
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2024

VOL. XLIX NO. 1



If you loved the native plants at the annual meeting held in Alpine in September 2023 (thank you once again to Kevin Floyd and fellow El Pasoans for a wonderful experience), then you're going to love the annual meeting to be held in Taos in July 2024. Although the locations of the two meetings are separated by about 600 miles (only about 400 as the crow flies), they share a surprisingly lot in terms of wide-ranging and diverse plant communities.

Hayden's Paintbrush (*Castilleja haydenii*) on Gold Hill overlooks the Taos Ski Valley trails and Wheeler Peak.

Image: Mary Adams, Taos Chapter

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

January–March 2024, Vol. 45 No. 1. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, is composed of native plant enthusiasts and advocates, from home gardeners to resource managers and botanists, 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. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Margaret Ménache, [newsletter \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:newsletter[at]npsnm.org).

The next submission deadline is February 24, 2024.

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.

Inside This Issue

- 3 From the Presidents
- 4 Deep in the Heart of Texas
- 5 Taos Mountains are Calling
- 6 Conservation Corner
- 7 Las Cruces Chapter Awards Grants for NMSU Students
- 8 Chapter Activities and Events
- 10 One Large Texas Ranch + ...
- 11 Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Field Trip
- 12 Update on the Silva Creek Botanical Garden
- 14 Memories of Alpine
- 15 The Latest from George Miller

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[at]npsnm.org)

NPSNM is a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization

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! Scan this QR code to be directed to our website or go there the old-fashioned way from your browser: www.npsnm.org. You may also snail mail your contact information, local chapter preference (if any), and dues to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176). Yearly dues [\$30 regular individual, \$45 household, \$60 friend of the Society, and \$20 for youth (through 26 years) or PK-12 teacher] and donations are tax deductible. 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?
- ☞ Has your physical address changed?
- ☞ Would you prefer to receive *only* an online copy of the newsletter?

Keep us informed so we can keep you informed!

Send us your most current information at:
[npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership[at]gmail.com)

It Pays to Advertise!

Only \$100/yr for business card ad;
\$225/yr for quarter page; \$450/yr for half page.
4 issues plus NPSNM's website.
Contact [connect \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:connect[at]npsnm.org)

From the Presidents

by Wendy and Don Graves



Greetings members of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico! We have had a busy year learning about the organization and chasing around the state, visiting chapters and meeting as many members as possible. As we write, we are planning our final chapter visit to Albuquerque for late November – early December (2023) and are researching what stops we want to make while there.

The state conference in Alpine, Texas was a great success. Many thanks to Kevin Floyd and his team for organizing an amazing conference! Luckily, the temperatures of this somewhat vicious summer had moderated and we were able to enjoy being outside, hiking, and visiting gardens. The fine presentations on Friday prepared us well for the

field trips offered on Saturday. The Conservation Champion Award was made posthumously to Judy Ackerman, who worked tirelessly for the designation of the Castner Range National Monument. The award will be used to further conservation efforts. It's not too soon to start planning to attend the 2024 conference in Taos. Mary Adams and the Taos Chapter are deep in planning mode already.



After the state conference, we left Ft. Davis, Texas and embarked on a six week long camping adventure where we visited, among other places, old-growth forests. Our most notable stops were the Albright Grove in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and the nearby Joyce Kilmer Grove in the Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina. Many of these trees are over four hundred years old and one hundred feet tall, with circumferences of over twenty feet! These groves of trees, and their lush understory, were spared the saw and are now cherished living monuments. Seeing such treasures has created an indelible impression on us, and we highly recommend a visit.



On the way to the Albright Grove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, we met a retired forester, who insisted we needed to take a hike that wanders through old growth forest on the way to the Ramsey Cascades. He was right. Wendy is standing between two tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).

Image: Don Graves

At the Chicago Botanical Garden, we saw a magnificent bonsai Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) estimated at 400–600 years old! In Hannibal, Missouri we admired The Liberty Tree, a giant Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), in front of the office of the Mark Twain Caverns RV Park, of all places! The tree is thought to have been a seedling in 1731. At the Shaw Nature Preserve near St Louis, Missouri (and part of the Missouri Botanical Garden system) we saw the Missouri record American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Many of the older trees we visited made us imagine what the continent was like during the early years of our country and before. With a bow to our ancestors who so diligently developed this country, how we wish that such long-term care had been taken with more of our natural resources!

One of our final stops was the property of some friends in Arkansas, who are in the process of establishing thousands of native plants on their forty acres of land near Eureka Springs. This couple credits their conversion to planting entirely native vegetation on their rural property to a few friends who were knowledgeable about native plants, along with presentations and books by Doug Tallamy, author of, among others, *Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope*. Always remember that you, too, can make a difference beyond your own yard and become ambassadors for our native local flora! From large-scale restoration down to the yards and gardens that surround our homes and public buildings, providing high quality native landscapes is important for the future.

Applying for a federal grant or state grants funded by the federal government? Read this!

In response to a request from the Gila Chapter, we have obtained a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) for the NPSNM. If your chapter has an opportunity to apply for state or local grant funds that ultimately arise from the federal government, you will need our UEI. This number identifies us in the System for Award Management of the United States government and is necessary for anyone seeking grant funds that originate in the federal coffers. If your chapter has avoided requesting grant funds under these types of programs, avoid that no longer. We are happy to help by supplying the information to chapter representatives upon request. ❖

Deep in the Heart of Texas

Kevin Floyd, El Paso Chapter

Written in 1942, June Hershey's lyrics were made famous by any number of singers. Among others, Gene Autry regaled us with tales of life "deep in the heart of Texas." While perhaps no one will miss "the cactus plants/[that] are tough on pants," we will all remember "the stars at night/[that] are big and bright" and "the prairie sky/[that] is wide and high" from our days in Alpine.

Our 2023 conference saw about 75 participants make the long drive to Alpine, Texas to enjoy the wide open spaces and diverse habitats of West Texas. We began Friday morning with a series of presentations to introduce us to some of the plant communities in the region.

Michael Eason, Associate Director of Conservation and Collections at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, gave an overview of the habitats, from the low elevations along the Rio Grande up to the tops of the sky islands. The plant diversity of around 2,500 species reflects the variety of elevations, soils, and rainfall found in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Dr. Ad Konings, retired biologist and current cactus enthusiast, gave a photographic tour of the cacti of West Texas. His amazing photos brought oohs and aahs from the crowd and a lot of technical questions about photography during the Q&A period.

Although most people probably do not think of aquatic plants when considering the desert, Casey Williams enlightened us with his presentation. Casey has been working as an aquatic plant ecologist for a decade and has made several trips to document the plants of various wetlands in West Texas. Many locations only have water part of the year, and sometimes not even that. Yet the plants persist, some as dormant roots and others in the seed bank.

Dr. Carolyn Whiting, the new botanist at Big Bend National Park, presented on some of her recent work monitoring rare plants in the Park. One species, the Guadalupe fescue (*Festuca ligulata*), is only found in the Chisos Mountains in the Park. The area burned in 2021, helping her to assess how fire might benefit the grass, possibly by clearing thick litter.



Ad Konings gave a knowledgeable presentation on the cacti of Texas, illustrated with stunning photographs of the plants in their native habitat. Image: Ash Taylor



The Sul Ross greenhouse was one of the suggested stops for those who had time to check out the many native plant opps in Alpine. Image: the DeCrescenzos



Kevin Floyd presented Jamie Ackerman with the posthumous Conservation Champion award for his wife, Judy. Image: Marianela Milner

Initial surveys in 2022 showed a decrease in the fescue population, but Carolyn was hopeful that the 2023 surveys might have better news.

The final presentation was by long-time native plant propagator Patty Manning. Since retiring from the Sul Ross Greenhouse, she runs Twin Sisters Nursery from her backyard in Alpine. With no history in the landscape industry, she had a lot to learn about propagating and growing desert plants. She willingly shared her experiences and lessons with us. Many conference participants also bought lots of new plants for their yards from Patty.

The welcome dinner Friday evening was at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, just a little south of Fort Davis. Volunteers led tours of the botanical gardens and the Cactus Museum, one of the largest collections of Chihuahuan Desert cacti in the world. Dinner was served on the wrap around porch, with a view of the sunset over the mountains.

We awarded the Conservation Champion of 2023 posthumously to Judy Ackerman. Her husband, Jamie Ackerman, accepted the award, which will be donated to UTEP to help fund a new scholarship program for Environmental Science students. Judy was one of the most influential conservation champions in the El Paso area. She fought for the preservation of the Castner Range on the east side of the Franklin Mountains, which was designated a National Monument in 2023. Judy's passion for the desert was apparent to all who met her, often on hikes in the Franklins or at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. She is greatly missed, but we are grateful that her legacy will inspire the next generation of conservation champions.

Continued page 10



Taos Mountains are Calling

by Mary Adams, Taos Chapter

Taos, whose name means “Place of the Red Willows” in the Tiwa language, was first a native pueblo and is now also a town with a convergence of three cultures. The pueblo is a UNESCO Heritage Site and is still inhabited. The town became an art colony in the early 1900s. Featuring four art museums and about seventy art galleries today, the town is also a thriving music and outdoor recreation center.

The Sangre de Cristo mountains, and over 1,000 square miles of public wilderness, draw visitors for our clean air, great views, and beautiful landscape. While you botanize those mountain trails, you can look over to the highest mountain in New Mexico: Wheeler Peak.

Better yet, come early and climb it, or take a picnic to Williams Lake, meandering through the cool forest and sub-alpine wildflowers.

The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument extends from the Colorado border south to Pilar, abutting about fifty miles of the river. Within this area, the Rio Grande River flows through an 800-foot deep gorge that was created by a geological rift. The bridge is the second highest bridge in the U.S. highway system, crossing the gorge on the west side of town. A community of earthships, off-grid sustainable housing, is close by.

And what about native plants? We are one of only a few places in New Mexico where you can explore alpine species, sub-alpine species, and the flora at lower elevations. Taos offers a total of six life zones for plant investigation. The choices are endless, but don't worry. We'll offer you lots of options to visit our favorite locations.

What We're Planning for You

Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, 7/25

Late afternoon/early evening reception at the Sagebrush Inn
Check-in and bag pick-up for the conference
Dinner on your own

Friday, 7/26

Hikes, workshops, field trips. Packed lunches distributed from Sagebrush Inn
Mid-late afternoon reception at our native plant greenhouse at the Rio Fernando Land Trust
Dinner on your own

Saturday 7/27

All-day speakers, posters
Lunch at the Sagebrush Inn
Banquet at the Taos Country Club

Sunday 7/28.

On you own exploring the Taos area. We will provide a list of options for self-guided tours

Join us in Taos at the historic Sagebrush Inn and Conference Center, July 25-28 for the 2024 NPSNM state conference.

The mountains are calling your name.

The Taos Chapter is busy planning to get you outside to explore Taos at the 2024 state conference, to be held July 25-28, 2024 at the Sagebrush Inn & Suites. We know that you come north not only for the plants, but also for the mountains, forests, culture, art, and music. Because July is peak tourist season, we're switching our day of hikes, field trips, and workshops to Friday, to avoid weekend crowds on hiking trails.

We've heard you also want more time to socialize and have free time. We've added a second reception (both are informal and outdoors) plus time on your own Sunday before you head home. Even the banquet will be outside/inside on Saturday at the Taos Country Club. Not only does the Club have terrific food, but it also has sweeping views of the mountains and the setting sun. ❖



We are working with the Inn to negotiate a conference rate for you. Once we have the information, it will go on the NPSNM website on our conference page there. The conference building is in the middle of the Sagebrush complex, walkable for the opening reception, conference check-in, Saturday presentations, and for the Inn's breakfast or other meals on your own.

Images: Mary Adams

You can always come early and stay longer in Taos!

Conservation Corner

~~~~~  
 by *Sylvan Kaufman*,  
*NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair*

I was able to learn a great deal about New Mexico's rare plants and restoration projects in the southwest at the mid-November meetings of the Rare Plant Technical Council and the Southwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SERSW).

### Rare Plant Conservation Strategy

Erica Rowe, state botanist at the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, put together a fabulous one day conference on the Rare Plant Conservation Strategy. Hosted at the Albuquerque BioPark, the meeting was well attended and gives new hope for collaboration among non-profit organizations and tribal, state, and federal agencies. For more information on the Strategy and lots of other great information, visit the New Mexico Rare Plant website.

I was interested to learn about collaborative efforts among the staff at the Albuquerque BioPark and the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix to propagate several New Mexico rare plant species for reintroduction to the wild. There were a couple interesting talks on the genetics of cactus species, showing that many morphological differences correlate with geographic locations. These genetic studies can help determine how different species are related and inform conservation efforts.

The US Forest Service said there is still some hope that Santa Fe and Carson National Forests will hire botanists. Currently, four National Forests in New Mexico are without botanists. Comments on forest management related to rare plants can be directed to each individual forest or to regional botanist (USFS Region 3) Kathryn Kennedy.



The iNaturalist home page for the natural heritage NM data. The link to this page may be found at the end of this article.

The importance of volunteers and citizen science information was highlighted during the conference. The New Mexico Natural Heritage Program now has an iNaturalist project page, that will help it track information on rare species. The Albuquerque Biopark Botanical Garden and the Institute for Applied Ecology,

based in Santa Fe, have volunteers who help with seed collecting, cleaning, and sorting, among other projects. The UNM Herbarium has a summer field trip for plant collecting and identification nights at the Herbarium for volunteers with good plant id skills.

Breakout sessions at the conference focused on how to improve and coordinate policies and regulations related to rare plant conservation, conservation of rare plants offsite (*ex situ* conservation), improving education and outreach, and improving data sharing. Stay tuned for more updates on advancing the Rare Plant Conservation Strategy!

### Ecological Restoration



A moss-dominated soil biocrust at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

Image: Sylvan Kaufman

The Society for Ecological Restoration meeting was held over two days in Santa Fe. There was a track that focused on soil biocrusts, highlighting some of the work being done on how to conserve and restore biocrusts. It was encouraging to learn that rescuing and replacing biocrusts may be straightforward, even for small landowners.

Presentations in the native plant materials track spoke to work on improving plant traits for climate change and on conserving genetic diversity of field-grown production seeds. Many of these seeds and tree seedlings are being used to restore grasslands and forests in New Mexico.

# HIKE!

Introducing 100+  
Great Hikes  
in New Mexico  
Wilderness Areas

<http://hike.nmwild.org>

NEW MEXICO  
WILD  
HIKING GUIDE

Organizations working on habitat restoration along the Rio Grande and Gila Rivers provided information on their projects. For example, Rio Grande Return has had great success in adding in-stream structures that mimic beaver dams, re-establish willow habitat, and fence out cattle. Projects like these reconnect streams to their historic floodplains and recreate braided channels.

### BLM Funds

In other news, the Bureau of Land Management announced funding for two projects in New Mexico: \$1.8 million will fund a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative and the Southern Plains Grassland Program to restore and maintain rangelands; and, \$1.2 million will fund the Navajo Nation's Diné Native Plants Program, a native plant seed banking and restoration program, for an additional two years. For more information, see the BLM website news.

### Proposed Legislation

Proposed federal legislation would protect the Upper Pecos Watershed from mining and create the Thompson Peak Wilderness Area. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján have introduced Bill S.3033 in the U.S. Senate and Representatives Teresa Leger Fernández and Melanie Stansbury have introduced a companion bill in the U.S. House (HR. 5943). ❖

### Article links

New Mexico Rare Plant website (maintained by the NM Natural Heritage Program): <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu/>.

The Strategy reports may be found here: [https://nhnm.unm.edu/botany/nm\\_rare\\_plant\\_conservation\\_strategy](https://nhnm.unm.edu/botany/nm_rare_plant_conservation_strategy)

Contact information for the different forests can be found on the website for the Southwestern/Region 3: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/organization/Southwestern%20Region%20%28R3%29>

iNaturalist project page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/natural-heritage-new-mexico-observations>

BLM news announcements: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/biden-harris-administration-infuses-28-million-though-investing-america-agenda>

## Las Cruces Chapter Awards Two Native Plant Grants for NMSU Students

*Joan Woodward, Las Cruces Chapter  
Scholarship Council Chair*

The Las Cruces Chapter of NPSNM is proud to award two \$500 grants to NMSU students involved in research and activities related to our mission. This year, Mickie Barraza, on behalf of the NMSU Range Club, won the undergraduate grant so that the club can prepare for the Society for Range Management conference 2024 Plant ID Competition. The grant will allow them to purchase hand lenses, books, clipboards, and they will be able to take local field trips to augment their study. The Las Cruces Chapter enthusiastically supports these field studies. We look forward to continuing to work with the club to help with mutually beneficial goals.



Joan Woodward presented the Undergraduate Student Grant award to Mickie Barraza and members of the NMSU Range Club at the 8 Nov Chapter meeting.

Image: Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano, NMSU

Sarah Ramirez, NMSU Biology MS Graduate Student, will be investigating the impact of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) produced by native desert microbes on plant germination and growth. This research is important for understanding micro-scale interactions and addressing broader challenges related to habitat and biodiversity conservation. She will use the grant to take a specialized training program in VOC analysis in Guanajuato, Mexico. The Las Cruces Chapter is pleased to support her important graduate work.



Joan Woodward presented the Graduate Student Grant award to Sarah Ramirez at the 8 Nov Chapter meeting.

Image: Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano

Congratulations to both grant recipients, and many thanks to chapter members who donated the funds to support these worthy endeavors. ❖

### Plant Natives, Reduce Pesticides, and Transform Your Community!

**BEE CITY USA**  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

The Carroll Petrie Foundation announces a new grant program for municipalities, counties, colleges, and universities located in New Mexico interested in becoming Bee City USA or Bee Campus USA affiliates.

For more information on the grant opportunity visit: [carrollpetrie.org](http://carrollpetrie.org)  
To learn about Bee City and Bee Campus USA visit: [beecityusa.org](http://beecityusa.org)

*The Carroll Petrie Foundation is a private family foundation based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Alongside its partners, the Foundation invests in the care and protection of animals and the natural world.*

## Chapter Activities & Events

**For further information** on upcoming events, email or call the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org). Click on Chapters to select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides. Wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground. **Check with your chapter for any fees or restrictions they or the event venues might require. Please check with the hosting 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 at the UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd NE. For more information contact Sara Keeney at [abq\[at\]npsnm.org](mailto:abq[at]npsnm.org) or 505-379-3392. For questions, future field trip ideas or to volunteer as a leader or co-leader, contact our Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles, [Sharon\[at\]seniorcareoptions.net](mailto:Sharon[at]seniorcareoptions.net), 505-604-6307. You must register at least 24 hours before the start with the fieldtrip leader. Please let us know if you need to cancel.

**Jan 3 Meeting.** "Common Mushrooms of Central NM." Dr. Cleveland Sharp reminds us that when we're hiking in summer in the mountains of NM, we often find mushrooms blooming in a profusion of colors, shapes, and sizes. But what kind are they and how can we figure them out? To answer such questions, Cleve Sharp and his wife, Jan Bandrofchak, joined the NM Mycological Society ten years ago. Now, with the help of experienced foragers Terri and David Wallis, they've developed a slide show of the common species found in the central mountains.



Dr. Cleve Sharp displays some of the bounty from a mushroom hunting trip.

*Continued page 13*

**El Paso** The El Paso Chapter has combined meetings with the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. The meetings will be the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am and will take place at the Garden Center at Memorial Park (3105 Grant Ave, El Paso, TX 79930). All events are free unless a fee is specified. Nonmembers welcome. Info: Kevin Floyd, 915-747-6665; [kwfloyd\[at\]utep.edu](mailto:kwfloyd[at]utep.edu); <https://www.facebook.com/Native-Plant-Society-of-New-Mexico-El-Paso-Chapter-191913520833180>

**Jan 6** Potluck and elections. Bring a dish to share, and consider stepping up to help in a leadership role! Open positions include vice-president, chapter representative, conservation chair, and field trip chair.

**Feb 3 Meeting.** "Temporal changes in dryland plant-microbe interactions in response to drought and nitrogen addition." Parikrama Sapkota (Pari) is a PhD candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UTEP and a Jornada-LTER Fellow. Pari's study delves into the soil microbial communities of different dryland plants. She is working to uncover how these communities change when plants face pressures like drought and changes in nutrient availability. This understanding is vital for predicting how these ecosystems might respond to future global changes that impact local conditions.

**Mar 2 Meeting.** "Member photo share." As we transition into spring, we want to celebrate with your favorite images of native plants, cacti, and landscapes. This is a chance to show and tell us about the plants in your yard, the ones you've seen on hikes, and the landscapes that you find breathtaking! Participants can share up to ten pictures. Email Kevin Floyd ([elpasonativeplants\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:elpasonativeplants[at]gmail.com)) for instructions on how to submit the images. They will be compiled into a PowerPoint, and when your pictures come up, you will get the chance to tell us about them. Pictures will need to be submitted to Kevin by February 23rd.



The Big Bend Acanthus (*Aniscanthus linearis*) grows only in the Trans-Pecos in canyons and along dry stream beds and arroyos.

Image: Kevin Floyd

**Gila (Silver City)** Monthly evening programs are on third Fridays at 7:00 pm. Programs will be hybrid – in-person and via Zoom. For the venue for live meetings check our website at [www.gilanps.org/events/programs](http://www.gilanps.org/events/programs). Those who would rather join in online may request a Zoom link from GNPS at [gilanative\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:gilanative[at]gmail.com). (Gila Chapter members will automatically receive a Zoom link by email). All are welcome. Field trips will be planned as opportunities arise – check the website at <https://gilanps.org/events/field-trips/>

**Jan 19 Meeting.** "If You Plant It, They Will Come: Meet the bees in your neighborhood and their favorite native plants!" presented by Oliver Neria, PhD student at the University of Texas at El Paso. Oliver will give a brief overview of our native bees and their life histories, floral preferences, and nesting behaviors, as well as strategies that thoughtful gardeners can use to create useful bee habitat.



A checkered skipper enjoys nectar at the SCBG.

Image: Elroy Limmer

Although the rest of our program schedule is not finalized yet, we are planning to have GNPS members Betsy Kaido and Elroy Limmer give a presentation on the history of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG). We are also planning a program on plant propagation by Patty Manning of Twin Sisters Natives in Alpine, Texas — participants at the NPSNM conference will remember how knowledgeable she is. Many of our recent activities have centered around the SCBG. We invited the community to the Silva Creek Botanical Garden to learn about the Garden Master Plan on August 5. See our article on p. 12 for an update on where we are now with the work. One of our most successful activities in October was a hands-on session to introduce native plants to some 35 fourth graders and their teachers at Jose Barrios Elementary School in Silver City. The Gila Chapter Education Committee had three rotating stations for each class: a session of nature art with Les Brandt, a discussion of what native plants are with learning examples by Ed Valentine, and a quick garden tour and selected plant identification by Karen Valentine. Volunteers Cathleen Norman and Susan Malter helped with group transitions. The students spent one hour at the Silva Creek Botanical Garden in small groups of five or six. They did drawings and took notes while learning about New Mexico native plants and pollinators. We hope to arrange a follow-

*Continued page 14*



**Las Cruces** Our hybrid meetings are held 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. Zoom link available from LC[at]npsnm.org. Check the NPSNM website, the LC Chapter's Facebook page, and recent email for updates, changes, additional news and other events and activities of interest.

**Jan 3 Meeting.** "Climate Ready Trees: Planting Smarter for a Warmer Future," presented by Dr. Marisa Thompson. Dr. Thompson is the NMSU Extension Urban Horticulture Specialist, based in Las Lunas. She is responsible for active Extension and Research programs in sustainable practices for New Mexicans.

**Jan 13 Field Trip.** TBD

**Feb 14 Meeting.** TBD

**Feb 17 Field Trip.** Location TBD. The field trip will be led by NMSU student Matthew Becker.

*Continued page 14*

**Otero** Most events are free, and everyone, including non-members, is welcome to attend. For more event and/or chapter information, and to contact us, please visit our chapter section of the NPSNM website.

**Jan 6 Annual meeting** from 11:30 am to 2:00-ish, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1010 E 16th St in Alamogordo. At this general membership meeting, our chapter will review previous meeting minutes, dispense reports, hold officer elections, appoint committee members, plan future activities, revise programs, etc.

In 2023, our chapter held an impressive nineteen events, with a combined attendance of over 150 people. There were five hikes, four workshops/presentations, many community outreach events, several tours, and a plant sale. Special thanks to last year's guest speakers including Sid Gordon, county extension ag agent, Lloyd Kreitzer, the Fig Man of New Mexico, Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano and Dr. Zachary Rogers of the NMSU Herbarium. Thanks as well to the hosts of our home garden tours. We awarded a grant to the herbarium at UNM and to an NMSU master's student in biology, on top of an annual grant to our local herbaria. We wish to thank our current members throughout the state and beyond, welcome our new members, and encourage those thinking about becoming a member to come join us. It's a good time to mention that we applaud everyone, and every group, who has been, and is being, a steward of nature, whether through conservation, education, or advocacy.

Our chapter looks forward, with enthusiasm, to opportunities in 2024 to be active in, and be a resource for, our community. It's up to all of us to make great things happen!

**Santa Fe** In-person meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May at 6:30 pm at Christ Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso. For more information, check the NPSNM website. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

**Jan 9 Meeting.** TBA.

**Feb 13 Meeting.** TBA.

**Mar 12 Meeting.** Izzy Barr from the Railyard Conservancy.

Fall of 2023 featured three speakers on very different topics. John Waconda gave an informative talk about the Nature Conservancy's work with Isleta Pueblo on forest management. Dr. Sylvan Kaufman, an ecologist from the Santa Fe chapter, gave a talk on invasive plants to watch out for in New Mexico and new research on existing invasive plants. Dr. Andreas Wion, ecologist with USGS, gave a fascinating talk on forecasting piñon tree masting events.



A piñon pine cone on a frosty morning. Image: Sylvan Kaufman.

**Taos** Videos of past meetings are at <https://tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos>. For updates, check the Taos page on the NPSNM website, our Facebook page, the Taos News Calendar, email TaosNPS[at]gmail.com, or contact Mary Adams, president, at mary\_adams\_co[at]msn.com. Meetings will be held on the FIRST Wednesday of the month in the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Road at 6:00 pm.

*The Taos Chapter will host the state conference from July 25-28 at the Sagebrush Inn & Suites.*

*To volunteer for the planning or running of the conference, please contact: Mary Adams, mary\_adams\_co[at]msn.com 303-345-1491. Thankk you!*

The Taos Chapter activities go on hiatus during the winter, other than the greenhouse, which operates year-round. Activities will resume in March, 2024.

**Mar 6 Meeting.** TBA.

**Apr 10 Meeting.** This meeting is the exception to the rule. It is the second Wednesday in April, not the first, due to a conflict in the Kit Carson Boardroom



**Deep in the Heart of Texas, Continued from page 4**

Saturday was for field trips! There were six options, some that stayed close to Alpine and others that made the long drive to Big Bend National Park. Casey Williams led the search for water for the aquatics field trip. Despite the ongoing drought, they found water in a stretch of Limpia Creek and at Balmorhea State Park. Several researchers from Sul Ross's Borderlands Research Institute took a group to the Marathon Grasslands, property owned by The Nature Conservancy. Michael Eason led a tour on the private Caldwell Ranch located in the Davis Mountains. The Ranch is a great example of how private landowners can conserve native ecosystems. Two groups went to Big Bend, one on a driving tour and the other on a hike on the Window Trail in the Chisos Mountains. Despite the late September date, the temperatures in the park peaked above 100 degrees! The hiking group saw many interesting species, including Texas Mountain Laurel (*Dermatophyllum secundiflorum*), Chisos Red Oak (*Quercus gravesii*), Firecracker bush (*Bouvardia ternifolia*), Texas Ranger (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) and Havard agave (*Agave havardiana*). It is always fun to see plants often used in landscapes in the wild! For those who wanted to stay closer to Alpine, Jim Fissel and Jim Martinez opened their Marfa home to those interested in bringing those very native plants into home landscaping.

On behalf of the conference planning committee, Julia Bailey, Jim Hastings, and Marianela Milner, we want to thank everyone who attended for making the conference a success! Although I do not think we would tackle planning a conference three hours away again, the people in Alpine made it possible. We especially want to thank Lisa Gordon at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center for donating the use of the facilities and helping with finding caterers. We encourage everyone to make a stop there next time they visit the Alpine area. Finally, we thank the speakers and field trip leaders for providing their time and expertise to make the conference educational and fun. See y'all next year in Taos! ❖



The Caldwell Ranch tour included travel by ATV and a stop at the Ranch bar.

Images: Pam Harte.

## One Large Texas Ranch + Conservation-Minded Owners = A Win for Native Plants

*Margaret Ménache, Albuquerque Chapter*



From left to right: Michael Eason, James Winn, Kevin Floyd, and Stan Stack.

Image: Margaret Ménache

There are three converging pieces to this story. A conservation botanist, a ranch, and a ranch manager with insatiable curiosity. Bring those together and you have a story of rare native plants found, identified, and cared for.

Michael Eason kicked off the 2023 Conference held in Alpine and hosted by the El Paso Chapter. He provided a sweeping overview of the wide range of plants to be found in West Texas. He is a well-known conservation botanist and author of *Wildflowers of Texas*. It would be an understatement to say that he definitely knew what he was talking about. His energy and enthusiasm about plants was contagious.

Texas is big (another understatement); there are all manner of places for an endangered plant to hide. Lots of the places are on private property.

James Winn belongs to the family that owns the o6 ranch. Reputed to be one of the largest ranches in Texas, it has been in his family for multiple generations. So, when James was casting about for a career that he could stick with, he decided to try his hand at being a cowboy on the family ranch. His east coast upbringing didn't really prepare him for life in the saddle. To be honest, the salary was disappointing, and his insatiable curiosity and persistent questions were beyond the scope of a cowboy's life. He told his father he'd like to get a degree in ranch management. As James said to me, 'After all, how hard could it be?' During his studies at Sul Ross, he became interested in botany, geology, chemistry, physics... Helping to manage the ranch seemed like the perfect outlet for all his interests.

Eason was involved in one of the most exciting plant hunts in Texas history: the possible sighting of the thought-to-be-extinct *Quercus tardifolia*. The last known *Q. tardifolia* disappeared in 2011. After definitively identifying two in Big Bend National Park in 2022, Eason reached out to his contacts with private land. One

*Continued next page*

## Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Field Trip

*Diane Stevenson, Albuquerque Chapter*



On a hot summer day in clear cool water, Martin Purdy's job researching water plants seems like the perfect way to spend the day. Image: Diane Stevenson.

One of the more intriguing talks during the Friday session of the annual NPSNM conference was that of Casey Williams, Secretary of the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society ([www.tapms.org](http://www.tapms.org)). He spoke about how little was known about desert aquatic plants and the reasons why. With the exception of water lilies, aquatic plants often do not produce flowers or seed and nearly always require wading to study. Aquatic plants out here live under harsh conditions. They clean and filter water, provide habitat and nursery for organisms, and tolerate salinity and minerals. In addition to those services, aquatic plants produce breathable oxygen for all us oxygen consumers and are the basis of the food web (someone eats them, nutrients are cycled onward, etc.) As for propagation, luckily waterfowl efficiently transport aquatic plant seeds and progeny as water bodies can be ephemeral.

Curious as to what a Texas riparian area would look like in the arid region south of Carlsbad, New Mexico, I signed up for Williams' aquatic and riparian habitat field trip. I wondered: would the Texas sites look like other riparian areas in New Mexico? Texas land is predominantly privately-owned: would that affect the riparian areas? The Trans-Pecos region where Alpine and Fort Davis, Texas are located is the area between the Pecos and Rio Grande rivers: what would be the impact of those watersheds?

Our first stop was just outside Fort Davis at the o6 ranch, where we were hosted by James Winn and his lovable dog, Sugar. A healthy cottonwood-willow forest marked the riparian area at the ranch headquarters. Wonderful land stewardship was evidenced by

the family's multi-generational loving care of the creek. The hand-built concrete low water bridge leading to the main ranch complex allows access during periods of high water and the sometimes ample mud. Regretfully, that hasn't been an issue during recent extended droughts in the watershed. Dry cliffs tower in every direction.

After the ranch tour, we drove to San Solomon Springs in the Balmorhea Lake State Park. A fascinating natural spring feeding a swimming pool enjoyed by locals, the Park and bathhouses were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. We observed a scuba class nearby as we looked for aquatic plants and fish in the clear waters (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/balmorhea>).

The field trip ended with a picnic lunch provided by the El Paso Chapter at Balmorhea Lake State Park in as much shade as we could find. In addition to Casey Williams' aquatic botany expertise and Jim McGrath's botany, this field trip was a cool treat during the 90+ degree heat. It is no surprise that the aquatic areas we visited are oases in this arid region of Texas! ❖

### One Large Ranch, Continued from previous page

contact was James. A botanist at heart, James willingly agreed to let Eason and colleagues search for more *Tardifolias*, as they are commonly called. Yes, they found one.

But there's more.

James and a botanist friend were walking along a drainage on the ranch when his friend tapped him on the shoulder. "We found it."

"Found what?"

"Oh, probably one of the rarest plants in the United States."

Surprised, James replied, "No shit, it's just right here. It's been here for years."

That plant? *Styrax platanifolius* ssp. *youngiae*, commonly known as Young's snowbell.

James attended the conference, brought samples of the oak and snowbell for people to see, gave a *Q. tardifolia* to the El Paso Chapter to be planted at the Centennial Museum of UTEP, and opened the ranch up to the "aquatic and riparian habitats" field trip on Saturday. He was generous with his time, answering a steady stream of questions from conference attendees. The plants on the ranch might be rare, but with managers like James, we can all be assured they are well-protected. ❖

Right: James Winn holds a *Styrax platanifolius* ssp. *youngiae*, commonly known as Young's snowbell. Image: Margaret Ménache



## Update on the Silva Creek Botanical Garden

by Margie Ann Gibson, Gila Chapter

In August 2023, the Gila NPS chapter sponsored a public open house to unveil the long-range Master Plan for one of our most important projects—the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. During the open house, GNPS volunteers stationed around the garden explained the plan's elements to visitors, including improvements for existing features and the creation of new ones.

The plan was developed by focusing on three themes identified during the design process: the relationships of native plants with the people, the wildlife, and the climate of our region. These themes will be highlighted throughout the garden by interpretive signage in each area, and featured in a beautiful tiled mural around the historic water tank.

The Master Plan will be implemented in phases; the open house announced Phase I, with an accompanying \$75,000 fundraising drive. This phase includes the new habitat thicket, improvements to the children's butterfly garden, an attractive redesigned front entrance, interpretive signs, and a tile mural. Later projects will include an ethnobotany garden, a children's pollinator garden, a Chihuahuan grasslands exhibit, a front yard garden, a "life in the creek" exhibit, as well as a redesigned pavilion, back entrance, and maintenance area.

The habitat thicket, already underway, features groupings of native plants and maintenance practices that ensure food and shelter for birds, for the insects they depend on, and for other wildlife. Practical examples of rainwater harvesting techniques using basins and swales will be featured.

The redesigned butterfly garden commemorates the lives of three dedicated young Grant County environmentalists.

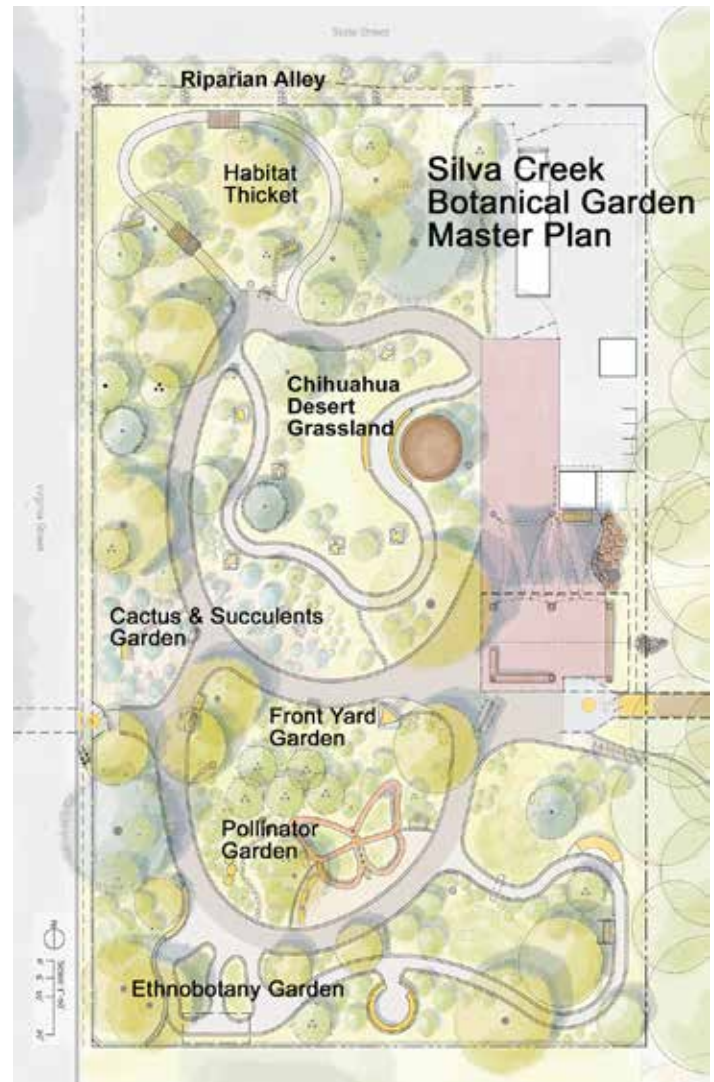
Improvements to the current primary entrance, including widening it and adding shade sails, a bike rack, and a bench, will create a more inviting approach to the garden.

The historic water tank is an iconic feature of the garden but also a safety concern. A wall around the tank will stop children from climbing under it and provide a surface for the tiled mural. In addition to its educational and aesthetic qualities, the mural will credit donors and outstanding volunteers.

The Master Plan is the result of many hours of hard work by the SCBG Steering Committee, made up of GNPS volunteers knowledgeable about plants and planning, and Ashley Pederson, a landscape architecture graduate student from the Rhode Island School of Design. Ashley was once the director of education at Tucson Botanical Gardens, so this project is near and dear to her heart. ❖

**Right: Volunteer efforts are transforming the Silva Creek Botanic Garden into a community resource that will include demonstration gardens, provide learning experiences, and serve as a recreational resource.**

Image: ELroy Limmer



Chapter Activities, Continued from page 8

### More from Albuquerque

**Feb 7 Meeting.** "The Alpine Flora of NM." Explore plants from the elevational limits of New Mexico! Joseph Kleinkopf will discuss observations from two summers of collecting plants in alpine habitats of NM. Learn the names of a few favorite alpine plants, as well as when and where to find them.

**Mar 6 Meeting.** "Insect Galls of the Southwest." Galls are growths on plants caused by another organism and can be all sorts of shapes and forms. Quin Baine, Museum Research fellow at the Museum of Southwestern Biology will give a summary of the main groups of insect gall formers, their specialized relationships to plants, and how to recognize common galls of native plants of the southwest. Gain an insight into an unusual plant interaction, and be inspired to start identifying species of a cool and understudied group of plant-dependent animals.



On a visit to Petroglyph National Monument, we found that our June work to remove tumbleweeds was effective but needs to be extended in 2024.

Image: Tom Stewart.

In October we concluded our field trip season with a walk in San Lorenzo Canyon on the border of Sevilleta NWR; a visit to the Albuquerque city greenhouse complex where thousands of native plants are being grown for landscaping; and a tour of the NMSU Agricultural Science Center in Los Lunas.

Our October speaker, NPSNM grant winner John Gorey, showed us rare thistles, described their ecology, and explained their importance to many wildlife species. In November we were updated on native plant seed banking at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden. Our outreach volunteers enjoyed engaging with the public this fall at the Build Your Backyard Refuge Day in Valle de Oro National Wildlife Reserve and Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR. The grand finale to our year? Presidents Don and Wendy Graves came to visit and livened up our holiday potluck lunch.

We're already planning our early 2024 field trips. Traditionally our first field trip of the season, Pine Flat is located along the transition ecotone from pinion-juniper to ponderosa pine in the Manzanita Mts. The early blooming pasque flower (*Pulsatilla patens*) is a highlight, and we may find spring parsley (*Vesper stanscei*), dwarf lousewort (*Pedicularis centranthera*), and other early blooms. Other spring trips in the planning stage include the NMSU Agricultural Science Center, Quebradas Backcountry Byway, Las Huertas Canyon, and Mesa Prieta or Rinconada Canyon.



The views in the Magdalena Mts are always amazing. Image: Sharon Miles.



**www.plantsofthesouthwest.com**

Native Seeds and Plants—  
Grasses, Wildflowers, Shrubs, Trees—Veggies too

6680 4th St NW, Albuquerque 505.344.8830  
3095 Agua Fria St, Santa Fe 505.438.8888

## Robledo Vista Nursery

See us at the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market  
February to December or by appointment

Native & adapted plants for Las Cruces & El Paso

**Now available!**  
*Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest* by Marcy Scott

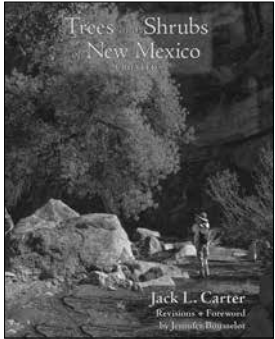
**www.RobledoVista.com • 575-541-8083 • 915-203-4385**

**New 2020 Edition**

## Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico


by Jack L. Carter

*Fully updated nomenclature*



**Order your copy through [www.gilanps.org](http://www.gilanps.org)**

While there, browse through our selection of Beginners Guides for native plant landscaping, butterfly identification and more!

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

Chapter Activities, Continued from page 9

**M**ore from Gila

up visit with the same group to observe the garden in different seasons and continue our plant and pollinator discussions. The Gila Chapter had a busy summer. In addition to our work on SCBG, we sold books and organized children's activities at our booth at the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival on July 29-30. We had a successful native plant sale on August 12. And we assisted with another agave planting on August 29-31.

**M**ore from Las Cruces

**Mar 13** Meeting. Leslie Bezner, owner of Landscape by Design by Blue Oak Creative, will discuss how to create a landscape that works for people and the environment, that will be beautiful and functional for years to come, and that will not require excess maintenance.

**Mar 16** Field Trip. TBD

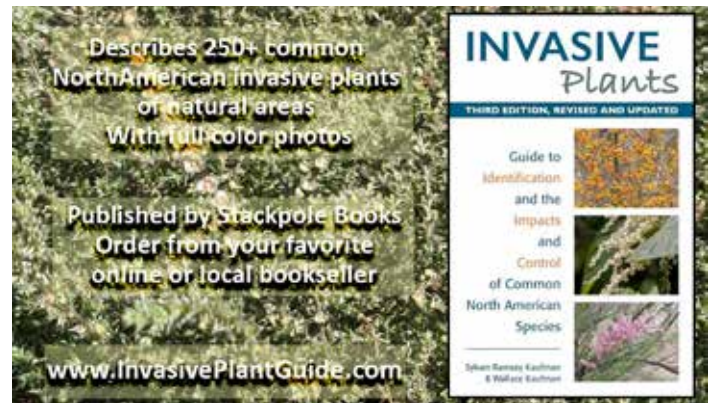
**Agua Fria Nursery**  
Specializing in Native Plants



In Santa Fe  
1409 Agua Fria  
505-983-4831  
fax 983-3593  
aguafrianr@aol.com



**CORRECTION.** The October-December 2023 issue of the newsletter provided an incorrect attribution for this image of one of the Taos Chapter's native plant sales. The photographic credit should be to Nan Fischer.



**Memories of Alpine**

The conference was a resounding success and enjoyed by many. **Ash Taylor**, the new EMNRD field botanist and invasive plant program coordinator, (image on p. ) wrote: "Saturday was just a fun day out in the field with like-minded folks. Great to get together to learn more about NM and the southwest, especially riparian areas. I really enjoyed all of the great topics the speakers presented and getting to put names with faces." **Michael and Jan DeCrescenzo** are members of the El Paso Chapter. They came early and went to the Sul Ross greenhouse (p. 4) and the rodeo (p. 15). They "really enjoyed the [Marfa] tour [below] and learning about how Jim and Jim (the owners) blended native grasses with cacti, succulents, perennials, and even their vegetable garden to provide for all wildlife, birds, and insects in their local ecosystem." They added, "Overall, the conference was fabulous and very informative. And the add-on activities made it a lot of fun. We had not been to a rodeo in 20 years and it was a real hoot." **Warren Shaul** (p. 15) belongs to the Big Bend Chapter of the NPSOT. He wrote: "I enjoyed meeting many of your members- Thank you for the opportunity to join your activities and to learn more about Big Bend native plants. This was the first time that I had the opportunity to visit Marathon Grasslands." ❖



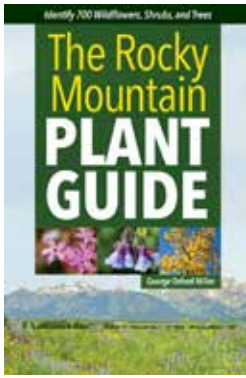
Left: Marfa Garden.  
Image: the DeCrescenzos.

Below: Casey Williams identifies an aquatic plant.  
Image: Diane Stevenson.



# The Latest from George Miller

*Lee Regan, Albuquerque Chapter*



Rocky Mountain plant guide, by George O. Miller. 2023. 412p Adventure Publications, Cambridge, MN.

This new identification tool has pictures and concise descriptions of 700 shrubs, trees and wildflowers, divided by color and indexed for easy access. Each page contains two photos that are larger than found in most field guides, plus a more detailed close-up inset of each flower or plant. Descriptive details for each plant include the overall appearance, stem, flowers, leaves, habitat, elevation, and range, indicated for three regions: Northern and Canadian Rockies; Middle Rockies; and Southern Rockies. Since the latter region includes northern New Mexico, this guide will be a useful addition for many NPS members. Besides the great photographs and amount of information compiled in the book, it is compact and easy to carry. Highly recommended for any northern mountain adventures. ❖



Above left: Hard to see in black and white, but he pops in color, Warren Shaul caught this little striped whiptail at Marathon Grasslands Preserve. Image: Warren Shaul.



Left: The Sul Ross Rodeo. Image: the DeCrescenzos. Above: Despite the heat, dinner at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center was delightful. Image: Kevin Floyd.



**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

## Native Plant Society of New Mexico Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

- President** Don & Wendy Graves  
president [at] npsnm.org
- Vice-President** Jonathan Tanis
- Recording Secretary** Jane Kruse
- Documentarian** Kathleen Hall
- Treasurer** Tom Stewart

### CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

- Albuquerque** Dana Loy
- El Paso** Marianela Milner
- Gila** Betty Spence
- Las Cruces** Joan Woodward
- Otero** Laurel Berry
- Santa Fe** Tom Antonio
- Taos** Jan Martenson

### Chapter Presidents

- Albuquerque** Tom Stewart
- El Paso** Kevin Floyd
- Gila** Margie Ann Gibson
- Las Cruces** Gordon Berman
- Otero** Jennifer Gruger
- Santa Fe** Tom Antonio
- Taos** Mary Adams

### Committee Chairs

- Conservation** Sylvan Kaufman  
conservation [at] npsnm.org
- Finance & Investment** Tom Stewart
- NMDOT** Steve Gisler
- Discussion Group Moderator** Bob Sivinski

### Staff

- Membership Coordinator** Lindsey Kirchhevel
- Newsletter Editor** Margaret Ménache  
newsletter [at] npsnm.org
- Website** Madeleine Woodward  
web [at] npsnm.org

## Contribute to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico makes it possible for the Board to approve funding for workshops throughout the state, basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and for the development and support of more early education programs from K–12 in New Mexico schools.

Contributing is easy! Scan this QR code to be directed to our website or go there the old-fashioned way from your browser: [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org). You may also snail mail your contact information with a check payable to NPSNM—Carter Conservation Fund to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176).



*Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.*

~Jack & Martha Carter

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
Permit No. 2093

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**



# NEWSLETTER

of the

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO**

*is available online.*

Download PDFs of this and recently archived issues at the NPSNM website:

**[www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)**



**Left:** The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center is home to a beautiful collection of yuccas, among other plants. Read about the El Paso Chapter's experiences of hosting this year's conference on page 4.  
Image: Kevin Floyd.



**Right:** The fringed Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia fimbriata*) is definitely not a grass, but lives in wet places at high elevations in the Northern NM mountains. Places you might visit at the upcoming conference, to be held in Taos this summer. Learn more on page 5.  
Image: Mary Adams.



Although the annual conferences are opportunities to explore other ecosystems, learn about the latest in native plant research, and spend time with new and old friends, our chapters work steadily throughout the year on local projects. Read more about all the chapters beginning on page 8.

Above: Elroy Limmer of the Gila Chapter continues to document the flora (and pollinators) of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Read about the progress on that long-term project on page 12.



Left: At an Otero Chapter wreath-making workshop, members used native plants in their creations. Patti Greer's wreath includes sprigs of juniper, creosote bush, seepwillow, four-wing saltbush, winterfat, and rose hips from Wood's wild rose, for adornment.  
Image: Patti Greer.