

NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



NEWSLETTER

of the
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2024

VOL. XLIX NO. 3



If you plant it they will come. A Scarlet Bugler (*Penstemon barbatus*) planted at the Dripping Springs Visitor Center garden welcomed a hummingbird who was passing through during the fall of 2023. Read the story on page 5.

Image: Nirmal Khandan

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

July–September 2024, Vol. 45 No. 3. 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, who have 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 August 25, 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.

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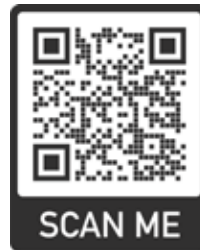
Legacy: What we leave behind, we give to the future

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information,
contact us at [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm[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)

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From the Presidents

By Wendy and Don Graves



Greetings to all! The NPSNM Annual Conference, and the end of early-bird registration on July 7, are quickly approaching. This year's conference will be in Taos, from July 25–28. Don't forget to register by loading our homepage, npsnm.org, and then scrolling down to click on the 2024 conference registration link. You can also use the QR code on page 7. Any questions, concerns, or problems? Please contact Linsdsey ([npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership@gmail.com)) for help.

At the NPSNM we continue to seek ways to save paper and reduce printing costs as part of our ongoing efforts to protect native landscapes wherever they may be. The conference program this year appears in this issue of the newsletter. If you are receiving this as a paper document, please bring it with you. If you are already paperless, be sure to bring the link or QR code with you on your electronic device. We are anticipating an excellent and informative conference in beautiful Taos, New Mexico and we know you won't want to miss it!

We have been hard at work at two major tasks. The first is planning our workshop, *New Mexico's Native Bees: Exploring Ecosystem Services, Ecology, and Identification*, to be taught by Olivia Messenger Carril on the campus of the Institute for American Indian Arts in Santa Fe this summer, July 15–19. This special workshop was announced to members through the leadership of the seven chapters, and the participant list was built from names submitted by the local presidents, after they queried their members. Participants from five of our seven chapters will be represented at the workshop this summer and we hope that the workshop will repeat in southern New Mexico next year!

Please note that Olivia Messenger Carril will be offering a field trip at the annual conference (Exploring Bee Diversity Along the Rio) and will also be presenting at the Saturday night banquet. Even if you missed out on applying to attend this particular NPSNM workshop, you'll definitely have an opportunity to learn more and get ready for what will hopefully be a repeat workshop next year.

Native bees have evolved special relationships with native plants, often offering pollination services to very specific native plant genera or families. On the other side of this, some native bees are absolutely dependent on services provided by our native plants, such as pollen for their brood, food, building materials, etc. Knowing more about native plants will, at some point, require knowing more about their pollinators, and New Mexico intends to help lead the way. To this end, Oregon State University has very recently extended their Master Melittologist Apprentice Program to New Mexico, the first state outside of Oregon and the Pacific northwest to be included. You can learn more about their program here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/master-melittologist>

The second, smaller project we have been working on has been to make sure that George Miller's wildflowersnm.com website continues to be available. After some effort, the website was successfully transferred to our domain and can be viewed and used at www.npsnm.org/wildflowersnm. Please note that you must type in this address, there is not a live link on our website at this time. Links on George's website that were broken before are still broken, but as part of the longer plan, we are hoping to begin fixing such problems. The NPSNM Board will need to discuss where the final place for this website will be. In the meantime, fulfilling George Miller's wishes, we are housing the website under our domain. Please check it out. ❖



Agapostemon sp. on *Gaillardia* sp.
Image: Elroy Limmer

Finally, we all need to remember that there are two vital board positions that will need candidates: President and Recording Secretary. One of the federal requirements to maintain our non-profit status is to have a president. Please consider serving our organization in one of these roles.

These positions will be vacant as of January 1, 2025. If you are interested in running for, or have questions about, either of these positions, contact us at [president \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:president@npsnm.org). To have your name on the ballot, you must confirm your intention to run by 5 September 2024.

Information about the candidates and instructions on voting will be in the October issue of the NPSNM Newsletter. Votes will be accepted by mail or email until 30 November 2024.

Who's on Board?

By Kathleen Hall, NPSNM Documentarian

This series will introduce the members of the state board, discuss what they do for NPSNM and why, and who they are when they're at home. If readers have questions or comments related to board structure and activities, please contact the newsletter editor [newsletter [at] npsnm.org] so we can address them in future issues.

Tom Stewart, member of the Albuquerque Chapter, has been on the Board of Directors of NPSNM for several terms. If you don't know his wry humor and thoughtful manner personally, you surely recognize his name and image from past newsletters as he recently completed three terms as president. He's now our state board treasurer, and along with other past presidents, is a bearer of the tribal wisdom that guides the governance of our organization.

On a recent spring day, Tom and I met under cottonwood trees where we talked about his work on behalf of NPSNM and how that has enriched his life.

As a youth he spent a few years in Las Cruces area. Moving back to New Mexico from California for work as an adult in the mid-1990s, Tom found himself drawn to the intriguing places and plants that "look, smell, and behave" like the Southwest. He joined the NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter and used the many hikes and field trips as a way to familiarize and immerse himself in these landscapes. "Nature became my refuge."

That passion for nature led him to dedicate time and management skills to our mission. When the Albuquerque Chapter needed a secretary he stepped up. Then George Miller, chapter president, asked Tom to serve as chapter vice-president. In 2016 he took on the NPSNM state board presidency, while continuing his role as chapter vice-president. In 2022 he settled into his current dual roles as Albuquerque Chapter president and NPSNM board treasurer.

Tom finds his current treasurer role satisfying because it's focused on financial tasks that occur periodically. As a long-time active member, he remembers periods of chaos that precede changes in organizational structure. Not too many years ago there was one person who kept the books, filed taxes, sent invoices, and kept the administrative machine running. When that volunteer became unexpectedly incapacitated it took many others to pick up the pieces. It was time for the organization to hire professionals. An accountant audits the books



Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus. NM Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants Home Page. <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu> (Latest update: 9 Jun 2024). Image: Daniela Roth.

and files tax reports. A membership coordinator keeps track of our growing numbers and varied membership options. A webmaster maintains our website. These experts have taken on many tasks so board members and other volunteers can focus on other work. For Tom, that's our finances.

When I ask about his original attraction to NPSNM – the nature connection – he tells me about a favorite place, Holy Ghost Canyon in Santa Fe National Forest, and the canyon's namesake flower, *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*. The lush, fiery pink of blossom stalks on steep slopes, its endangered status, and the very small, isolated range of this endemic wildflower, are reasons for the NPSNM to continue working to conserve native plants and their habitats.

The business of NPSNM at the state level is normally handled at two state board meetings each year. The winter meeting includes grant decisions and annual reports, an agenda of mechanics. The summer meeting is where ideas have room to stretch out and be discussed, or as Tom puts it, "We can talk about the vision thing."

He'd like to see more members attend summer meetings so they can hear and express ideas, and perhaps consider filling a position on the board. This year the co-presidents and secretary will be vacating their positions. Other voting board member positions include chapter representatives, selected by the chapters. Tom encourages members who are curious about the governance of NPSNM to come to the summer meeting in Taos. He is especially interested in conserving the balance of the board officers to represent all chapters, with a mix of native plant experience and longevity with the NPSNM.

As a final comment on his decision to take on the duties of a state board officer, Tom reflects, "Having been a guest at board meetings, I knew they were the most agreeable, un-political, and dedicated people I could ever work with." ❖

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
To learn about Bee City and Bee Campus USA visit: 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.

Conservation Corner

By Sylvan Kaufman,
NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Stinknet found in New Mexico



The yellow, ball-like flowers of stinknet flowering in April. Image: Andrew Tree

In April, Gila chapter member and wildflower photographer Andrew Tree found the first occurrence of the invasive plant stinknet, *Oncosiphon pilulifer*, in New Mexico near Lordsburg. Stinknet, also called globe chamomile, was introduced from South Africa and has been proliferating in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Mexico. It is a winter annual in the Asteraceae,

blooming in early spring. It can form dense populations that particularly threaten other native spring-flowering plants, and the dried vegetation is a fire hazard in summer. Some people have an allergic reaction when handling the plant.

After confirming identification of the plant, Andrew returned to the site, pulled up the plant, and it is now being pressed for the herbarium at WNMU. Thank you to Andrew for helping keep this plant out of New Mexico! If you think you have found an invasive plant new to the state or to your region, you can report it to your local Agricultural Extension agent and send a voucher specimen to your regional herbarium. NMSU is working to hire a new Noxious Weeds Coordinator for the state as of May. For more information on stinknet, visit <https://extension.arizona.edu/stinknet-invasion>.

New BLM Public Lands Rule

The Bureau of Land Management finalized a rule recognizing conservation as an equally important use of public lands. Among other things, the new rule allows for restoration and mitigation leases. NPSNM joined the Colorado and Arizona native plant societies in commenting on the proposed rule and requesting that non-profits receiving restoration leases be exempted from the fees associated with other types of leases. The final rule states, "Recognizing that restoration lessees are providing a service to the public and the BLM, the rule provides for waiving or reducing the rent of a restoration lease if a valuable benefit is being provided to the public and revenue is not being generated." The new rule provides a mechanism for better land management practices on BLM lands. Read more about the new rule at: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-strategy-guide-balanced-management-conservation>

Sandoval County BLM Land Protected

The Bureau of Land Management has protected 4000 acres of land in southern Sandoval County near Placitas from mineral development for the next 50 years. The land includes the Buffalo Tract and Crest of Montezuma. These areas provide important habitat for plants and animals and contain sacred cultural sites. <https://www.doi.gov/press-releases/secretary-haaland-protects-sacred-sensitive-lands-new-mexico> ❖

Dripping Springs Visitors Center Garden

By Kenneth Steigman, Las Cruces Chapter

In 2023, the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund awarded a grant to the Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks ("Friends") for maintenance and upgrades to the Dripping Springs Visitors Center Garden in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The NPSNM Las Cruces Chapter partnered with the Friends to provide plant expertise and volunteers to design and implement the garden upgrades.

The garden, which was in significant decline since it had received no supplemental watering and little maintenance for over a year, is now greatly improved thanks to grants, lots of sweat equity, and the addition of thirty-five plants, including thirteen species of native plants. A Scarlet Bugler (*Penstemon barbatus*) in bud was added to the garden in August. By September it was in full bloom and had attracted numerous hummingbirds. *See cover photograph.*

Nearly all the added species are native to Doña Ana County. However, because very few native plant nurseries exist near Las Cruces, many of these plants had to be purchased from nurseries as far away as Boulder, Colorado; Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Alpine, Texas.

Additionally, the outer cactus garden has been redesigned, and dozens of native cacti have been added.

Many repairs and upgrades were made to the garden infrastructure throughout the year. These included repairing leaks, extending existing drip lines throughout the garden, and adding and adjusting emitters to areas where new plants were installed. A large number of overgrown and dead plants were removed. Common to all gardens everywhere, extensive weeding throughout the garden was needed.

The water feature was repaired by upgrading the plumbing to the garden, replacing parts to the float and sealing the bowl above the "falls". The sound of water flowing over the rocks once again is attracting a diversity of wildlife and brings joy and peace to garden visitors.

Special thanks to the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund for making this happen. Thanks also to our chapter members and others who devoted many hours of work to ensure the success of this project. ❖



The garden in fall 2023. Image: Lyn Hoffmann

HIKE!

Introducing 100+
Great Hikes
in New Mexico
Wilderness Areas

<http://hike.nmwild.org>

NEW MEXICO
WILD
HIKING GUIDE

Las Cruces Students Learn about Native Plants

Jeremy Lane. Asombro Institute for Science Education



The amphitheater at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, primary venue for Asombro Institute science-based, hands-on educational activities, was built in 2005. The NPSNM has long supported Asombro's work through the Carter Conservation Fund.

Image: <https://asombro.org/who-we-are/#history>.

In 2023, over 500 third- and fourth-grade students were introduced to New Mexico plants through in-class lessons presented by the Asombro Institute for Science Education, a Las Cruces-based, non-profit that seeks to increase science literacy via hands-on lessons aligned with national science education standards and centered around local floral and faunal examples.

Made possible by a grant from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's Carter Conservation Fund, twenty-two Las Cruces classes learned about plant traits, structure, and function, while simultaneously learning to recognize plants "in their own backyard."

Using their understanding of stomata, third-graders studied leaves of two oak species found in New Mexico to learn how location humidity differences have led to different leaf sizes to allow the plants to conserve water.

In fourth-grade lessons, students learned to recognize basic plant parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit) and their functions by examining local plant specimens including ocotillo, desert willow, Apache plume, sotol, grama grasses, and many others.

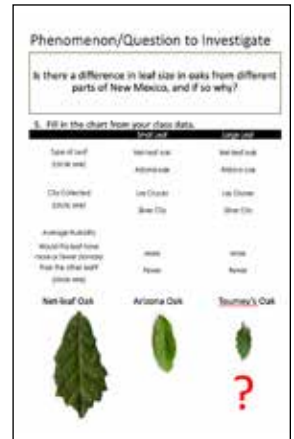
Asombro's Executive Director, Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, said, "It might be surprising to learn just how many students do not know plants as ubiquitous as creosote bush before these presentations, but through shared goals of NPSNM and Asombro, more students are being introduced to the beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, including the origin of that wonderful rain scent.



"Asombro sincerely thanks the Native Plant Society of New Mexico for the opportunity to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of our native plants. Because of this generous support, not only has scientific understanding increased in these students, but the importance of local ecology and conservation has been imparted to them as well."

Right: Third-grade students summarized the results of their scientific study on worksheets like this one.

Below: Fourth-grade students work with herbarium specimens to identify plant parts.



Learn more about Asombro Institute on our website: <https://asombro.org>; where we've been, what we've accomplished, where we're headed in the future, and how you can support our work. ❖

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, August 17th

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Gough Park parking lot at 12th and Pope in Silver City

Native plants are beautiful, hardy, need less water and provide habitat for wildlife.



Fine Needle Penstemon *Penstemon pinifolius*
by Jackie Burton

Meet and buy directly from native plant growers:

- Gila Watershed Partnership, Safford
- Honey Hawk Homestead, Mimbres
- Lone Mountain Natives, Silver City
- Spadefoot Nursery, Cochise County
- Whiskey Creek Zócalo, Arenas Valley

Sales with cash or checks only

Sponsored by:



Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2024 Annual Conference
Taos Mountains are Calling...



Thursday, July 25 to Sunday, July 28

Sagebrush Inn Conference Center

Taos, NM

Please pull out this section to use during the conference, or download it on your phone from the conference website. You can find it by using the QR code here or going directly to the website conference page: <https://www.npsnm.org/2024-npsnm-conference-agenda/>





Welcome to the 2024 NPSNM Conference

The Taos Mountains, with a little help from the Taos Chapter of the NPSNM, have called you to northern New Mexico to enjoy activities, presentations, conversations, and the alluring outdoor spaces. Our conference speakers will share with us their knowledge and research on climate change, restoration, diminishing water, and how these issues affect native plants.

Make sure you take our altitude into account when you go for hikes and field trips, or just relax at 7,000' of elevation and intense sunshine. Drink plenty of water to acclimatize.

Many of our activities will be in different places around Taos so we ask you to please wear your name tag at all times. Join us at the social gatherings of the Thursday Meet-and-Greet at the Sagebrush Inn and the reception, plant sale, and tour of our greenhouse and demonstration garden on Friday afternoon from 3:00–5:00 pm at the Rio Fernando Land Trust property.

Don't forget to bid on Silent Auction items in the Zuni Room and shop for books from a variety of vendors in the Conference Center lobby.

We will have at least two groups of students presenting posters, and we have invited any and all students to join us on Saturday for our day of presentations. Local Taoseños are also invited to join us for the Saturday presentations, as we work to spread the gospel of native plants throughout our local community. We hope you'll extend a warm NPSNM greeting to these new faces.

The Taos chapter, the Sangre de Christos mountains and the 1,000 square miles of public wilderness welcome you to the 2024 Native Plant Society of New Mexico annual conference. We want you to learn, share, be amazed, and have fun!

Mary Adams,
President Taos Chapter

Registration: Early-bird pricing ends July 7. Registration is online only. You may go to the website or scan the QR code here. If you experience problems, please reach out to Lindsey Luna, (npsnmmembership [at] gmail.com).



Conference Location: Sagebrush Inn & Suites, 1508 del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM

Accommodations: Call the Sagebrush Inn & Suites directly (575-758-2254), and be sure to ask for discounted room rates set aside under the name: Native Plant Society Taos Chapter. The room block with special rates will no longer be available after July 4.

The altitude in Taos is 7,000' and all hikes and some field trips will go much higher. Keep drinking lots of water from your reusable water bottle throughout each day to adjust to the altitude.

When outdoors, wear a hat, sunscreen, take extra clothing for weather changes, carry snacks, use hiking poles (if needed), and bring insect repellent for lower elevations.

Then relax and enjoy the Taos mountains!

Breakfast WARNING!



The Sagebrush Grill opens for breakfast at 7:00 am. Hikers all meet Friday at 7:15 am and the Saturday presentations start at 8:30 am. Taos restaurants generally open between 8 and 9 am. Please plan accordingly.

Check-in/Register—Lobby of the Sagebrush conference center 4:00–7:00 pm on Thursday and 6:30–9:00 am on Friday

Lunch—On Friday, all workshop, field trip, and hike participants will pick up a boxed lunch at the Sagebrush Inn before starting your activity. Look at our announcement board in the Sagebrush Conference Center lobby for location and pick-up time.

Carpooling—All trips leaving the Sagebrush Inn will involve carpooling. Please consider taking others if you have a larger vehicle, or contribute gas money to your driver.

Reusable water bottles—There will be a filling station for you to fill your water bottles in the Chamisa Conference room. Please use a reusable bottle throughout the conference—thanks!



Silent Auction: There is still time to donate items that might be of interest to other members. To offer an item, please contact Jan Martenson — jsm449 [at] mac.com (301) 318-9117.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to bid on auction items in the Zuni Room of the Sagebrush Inn at the Conference Center. Bidding will be open throughout the conference days. One special item will be the tea cozy shown here and made by Taos Chapter member Minna White. Owner of Lana Dura, White creates felted pieces using Navajo Churro Sheep wool, noted for the wide range of natural wool color — no dyeing involved (www.lanadura.com)

Thursday, July 25

- 3:00–5:00 pm NPSNM Board meeting in Piñon room of the Sagebrush conference center
- 4:00–7:00 pm Check-in/Registration in the lobby of the Conference Center at Sagebrush Inn & Suites, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos
- 4:00–7:00 pm Welcome Meet-and-Greet in Sagebrush Inn courtyard for all participants
Complimentary appetizers and cash bar
- 4:00–7:00 pm **Silent Auction begins** in the Zuni room of the Sagebrush Conference Center

Dinner on your own—consider making reservations.

Suggestion list online <https://www.npsnm.org/conference-dining-suggestions/>



Activity descriptions for Friday may be found online:
<https://www.npsnm.org/2024-npsnm-conference-workshops-field-trips-hikes/>

Friday, July 26

Breakfast on your own— Plan on bringing your own food for Friday breakfast if you are on a hike meeting at 7:15 am. The Sagebrush Grill starts serving breakfast at 7:00 am and most restaurants serving breakfast in town don't open until 8:00 or 9:00 am.

Workshops

A Design a native garden.

9:00 am Chamisa Conference Room I

Judith Phillips

B Identifying conifers.

10:30 am Chamisa Conference Room II

Renee Galeano-Popp

C Make a cyanotype with native plants.

9:00 am Pinon Room

Catherine Langley



Conifer identification will be a snap for those who attend Workshop B.
Image: Mary Adams

Field Trips



The garden of Taos-based landscape designer Dan Jones will be one of the three gardens visited on Field Trip D.
Image: Dan Jones

Pick up a boxed lunch before meeting in the Sagebrush parking lot. Check announcement board in Conference Center lobby for location of box lunches. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and hiking poles (if needed).

D Three Unique Taos Gardens.

8:30 am Roberta Chambers

E Exploring Bee Diversity Along the Rio.

9:30 am Olivia Carril

F Native Seed Collection.

9:30 am IAE seed collecting team



Right: How many pollinators can *Heracleum maximum*, Cow Parsnip, attract?! This specimen is one of many native plants to be found along the Rubezahl trail. Image: Mary Adams

Hikes

Please be sure that you are comfortable hiking at these elevations and distances. Hikes will leave early to ensure parking at trailheads and avoid early-afternoon lightning. Eat breakfast on your own and pick up a boxed lunch before meeting in the Sagebrush parking lot at 7:15 am to carpool for all hikes. Check announcement board in Conference Center lobby for location of box lunches. Hiking distance and duration is up to the group leaders. Stop in a cool, forested area to eat your packed lunches. Be sure to take warm clothes, rain gear, hat, water, sunscreen, hiking poles (if needed) and energy bars or gels.



- 1 Williams Lake.** Distance: 4 mi RT
Difficulty: Moderately difficult Elevation gain: 840'
- 2 Gavilan Trail.** Distance: 4.8 mi RT
Difficulty: Moderately-difficult Elevation gain: 1,866'
- 3 Rubezahl Trail.** Distance: 2 mi RT
Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 1,154'
- 4 Agua Sarca Trail.** Distance: 5.7 mi RT
Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 785'
- 5 Angostura.** Distance: 4 mi RT
Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 700'
- 6 Staurolite Trail.** Distance: 4 mi RT
Difficulty: Easy Elevation gain: 790'



No matter where you hike in Taos, you can depend on spectacular views and well marked trails.

Image: Mary Adams

Friday, July 26 from 3:00–5:00 pm

Join us for a reception, plant sale, and a look at our greenhouse and demonstration garden in Rio Fernando Park on the Taos Land Trust Property.

Refreshments and lots of native plants! Enjoy conversation, shopping, appetizers, beverages, and plants in and around our Taos chapter greenhouse.

Purchased plants can be held for you until Sunday. Please wear your name tag to help us identify you as a conference attendee.

Park in Fred Baca Parking lot: 301 Camino del Medio and follow signs to the greenhouse. Maps provided in conference packets.



Our Taos Chapter members always look forward to selling native plants to the local community. (This image highlights one of our 2023 events.) We're excited to offer our plants for sale to conference attendees this year at our conference reception.

Image: Nan Fischer

Dinner on your own. Please consider making reservations.

Suggestion list online: <https://www.npsnm.org/conference-dining-suggestions/>



Our speakers will focus on climate change, restoration, water issues, and how all these factors impact native plants. Speaker bios may be found online:
<https://www.npsnm.org/biographies-of-speakers/>

Saturday, July 27

Breakfast on your own. We packed so much into the presentation program that Saturday's conference day will be another early start. Eat breakfast early at the Sagebrush Inn or make other arrangements.

8:30–10:00 am Sagebrush Conference Center, Chamisa I & II Ballrooms, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur

Welcome to the NPSNM Annual Conference 2024, **Mary Adams**, President Taos Chapter

Keynote Speaker: **William deBuys**, "Making Peace with the War on the Environment"

Restoration: **Dean Swift**, "Reclamation Seed Production—Taos Ecoregion"

10:00–10:15 am

Break and Silent Auction in Zuni Room

10:15 am–12:00 pm

Restoration: **Jan-Willem Jansens**, "Adapting Woodland and Wetland Ecosystems to a Shifting Climate: a Case Study in the Lower Embudo Watershed"

Climate/Phenology: **Erin Berkowitz**, "Effects of Climate Change on Alpine Plant Phenology"

Restoration: **Paul Cross**, "Gambel Oak: Direct Seeding and Container Production"



Quercus gambelii, Gambel's Oak, is the primary native oak in northern New Mexico. Paul Cross will show us how to propagate oaks from seed to use this keystone species in our landscapes. Image: Paul Cross

12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch in Chamisa II Ballroom and Silent Auction in Zuni Room

1:00–2:45 pm

Announcement of 2025 NPSNM conference in Las Cruces

Taos Pueblo: **Cameron Martinez**, "Anticipating Climate Change from a Native View"

Taos Wetlands: **Sage Dunn**, "Riparian Restoration on Public Land in Northern New Mexico"

Taos Water: **Sam DesGeorges**, "Peace in the Valley"



The vistas in the mountains around Taos offer glimpses of multiple ecosystems in all directions. Image: Mary Adams

2:45–3:10 pm

Break and Silent Auction in Zuni Room

3:10–3:20 pm

Conservation Hero Award



3:20–4:30 pm

Taos Alpine Plants: **Joseph Kleinkopf**, "Alpine Plants of the Southern Rocky Mountains: Past, Present and Future"

Panel Discussion: "The Future is Now"

Moderator: **Rachel Jankowitz**

Panelists: **Dean Swift, Judith Phillips, Melanie Gisler, Jan-Willem Jansens**

4:30 pm

Pick up and pay for Silent Auction items in Zuni Room. Cash and checks appreciated!

6:00 pm **Banquet** at Taos Country Club, 54 Golf Course Drive, Ranchos de Taos

After-dinner speaker: **Olivia Carril**, "What's the Buzz? Assessing the status of bee populations in the US and NM"

Your name tag, with pre-purchased banquet option, is your ticket for dinner. There will be plenty of free parking and spectacular views of Taos Mountain, Rio Pueblo, and the Rio Grande Gorge.

If you're in no rush to head home on Sunday, choose an activity from our online list of recommended self-guided field trips and area attractions:

<https://www.npsnm.org/self-guided-area-activities/>

For those who registered for Sunday activities, more information may be found here:

<https://www.npsnm.org/sunday-activities-optional/>

Sunday July 28

Breakfast on your own—here are some suggestions: <https://www.npsnm.org/breakfast-options/>

Sun-1 **Bird Walk in the Rio Fernando Wetlands**

7:00 am Sagebrush parking lot

Sun-2 **Roadside Botanizing in the Tusas Mountains**

8:30 am Sagebrush parking lot, **Jan Martenson**

Sun-3 **Couse-Sharp Historic Garden and Studio** (10:00 am–12:00 pm)

9:45 am Sagebrush parking lot to carpool or meet at the Couse-Sharp house at 10 am,

146 Kit Carson Road—public parking lot just downhill, See map in your packet, **Theresa Taggart**

Sun-4 **Gold Hill Alpine Hike**

8:00 am Sagebrush parking lot, **Shelby Leonard**

Sun-5 **Field Trip to restored wetlands near Dixon**

9:00 am Sagebrush parking lot, **Jan-Willem Jansens**

Thanks for joining us in Taos!



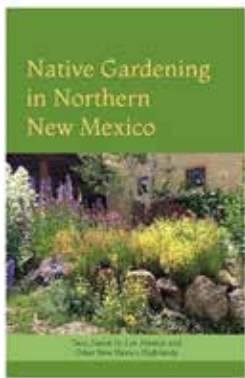
BOOKS!

For those days when it's too hot
too cold
too rainy (that will be the day)
too windy

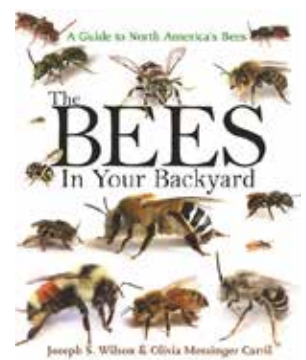
or you just need a leisurely day at home

we are pleased to meet your native plant book needs at the conference!
The Taos Chapter, UNM Press, and Taos book store op. cit. will have tables
in the Sagebrush Conference Center Lobby.

Come check out the selections.

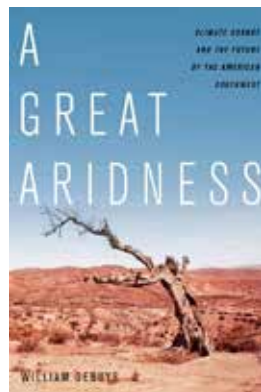


Woo hoo! The Taos Chapter has updated and printed the Native Gardening in Northern New Mexico bible. All new images make this book pop. You can buy it online from Amazon or directly from us at the Conference. Either way the cost is \$25.



Dinner speaker Olivia Carril is co-author of one of the most well-respected book on bees. Clear descriptions and excellent photographs make this book your go-to resource for identifying bees and understanding their behavior. If you don't have this book already, the time to add it to your library is now.

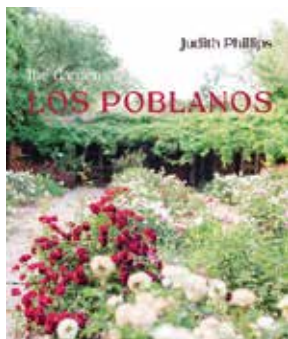
Keynote speaker William deBuys published this award-winning book in December 2011. The intervening dozen plus years have made his message even more urgent. If his other books are on offer as well, be sure to pick at least a few of them up. They are all excellent reading and many are collaborations with photographers that result in breathtakingly beautiful books.



Panel participant Judith Phillips is a well-known landscape designer and author who has been advocating for the use of native plants since her first book in 1987. *Growing the Southwest Garden* and other selections will be available for purchase. Her most recent offering from UNM Press traces the evolution of Albuquerque's Los Poblanos from a traditional farm and ranch to a sustainable family business that relies on a careful mix of plants that Phillips selected.



Wondering about that conifer cone on page 10? It's from a *Pinus aristata*, bristlecone pine.
Image: Mary Adams

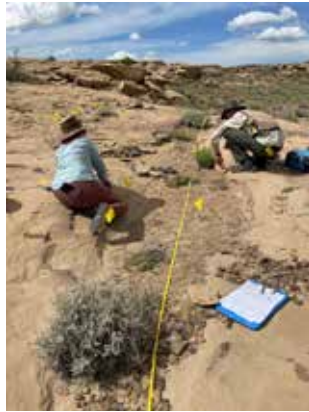


Updates from the State Botanist

By Erika Rowe

As of February 2024, there are currently forty-six species of native plants designated as state endangered in New Mexico, fifteen of which are also listed as either federally endangered or threatened by the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. As many of you are aware (the NPSNM provided a letter in support of the amended rule during the public comment period in 2021), the rule governing state endangered plants was recently amended to help curb the continuing decline of rare plant populations in the state. The finalized rule went into effect on April 25, 2023 and expanded the definition of “take” to mean “destroy/remove/harm” whereas the previous rule only prohibited the removal of endangered plants with the intent to possess, transport, or offer for sale.

Section 75-6-1 NMSA 1978 gives the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s (EMNRD) Forestry Division, and Endangered Plant Program, statutory authority to maintain and update the list of state endangered plant species and to protect species of plants determined to be endangered. The amended rule applies to state endangered plants on state, federal, and private lands in New Mexico, but an exemption for incidental take for tribal members who use rare plants for religious purposes or activities on tribal trust, restricted fee land, or individual trust allotments remains in place. Four new permit types are now available to download from our website: Incidental Take, Voucher Specimen Collection, Propagation, and Scientific Study.



Left: Carmen Austin laying out a transect for long-term monitoring of *Cirsium wrightii* (plant in the foreground) at Santa Rosa, NM.

Center: Ash Taylor and Marty Purdy laying out a transect in a sandstone crack to measure and monitor *Astragalus humillimus* populations near Farmington.

Right: Measuring and monitoring the width of an *Astragalus humillimus* clump along a transect,

Images: Erika Rowe, 2023.

The amended rule has slowly gained awareness, largely on public lands, due in large part to close partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State Lands Office and, by default, consultants who do work for their clients on these public lands. BLM leadership have also shown their support of the rule by notifying their field office staff who frequently deal with disturbance projects and related permitting and mitigation for rare plant conflicts. Not surprisingly, awareness of the rare plant rule has been slower on private lands where potentially larger residential or industrial developments are occurring; however, as the well-worn phrase goes... “no news is good news,” and in this case I hope that’s true.

Enforcement of the rule is something I hope we won’t need to turn to, but should a violation occur, landowners (public or private) or Forestry Division staff may request that law enforcement pursue charges under the rule (pursuant to NMSA 75-6-1 and 19.21.2 NMAC). Forestry staff can also assist a landowner with pursuing those charges if the take occurred on their land. Since a violation is a criminal offense (a misdemeanor), the only law enforcement officers authorized to investigate and enforce violations of the rule are sheriff deputies or state police officers (or in some cases, State Parks Division or federal conservation officers, should an offense occur on those lands).

Since the rule went into effect, I have worked with several entities ranging from federal agencies to consultants to private energy developers on mitigation, avoidance, and navigating the rule’s intent, but I have processed only a handful of permits. Each situation has been quite different and has prompted me to think about how the rule might be strengthened further to protect rare plants in future amendments. For more information on permits or the rare plant rule, visit: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/request-a-collection-permit/>

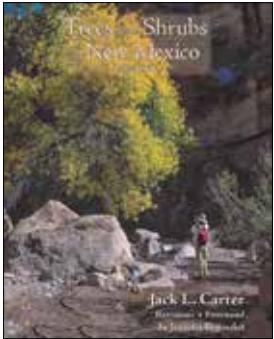
Continued page 19

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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 & 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. 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, 505-604-6307. You must register at least 24 hours before the start with the field trip leader. Please let us know if you need to cancel.

Jul 3 Movie Night. Join the group for something different—a chance to view an informative and thought-provoking video together. Biologist Doug Tallamy uses wonderful graphics to show how it all functions, from plants to insects to birds etc., to keep this planet alive. He explains the why and how that make you, your property, and what you plant nature's best hope. Video created for the Smithsonian Institution. Bring your own popcorn!

Aug No meeting.

Sep 4 Meeting. "Native Plants of the Ojito Area." Lenore Goodell will share an essay in images: sixteen years of visits to Ojito Wilderness and vicinity. She says, "I hunt for flowering plants, attempt to understand their habits and habitat, and record in light the beautiful landscapes they are surrounded by."

- Our series of talks from students and staff of the UNM Herbarium concluded with Bryana Olmeda's presentation of her flora project in the remote Broke Off Mountains. These events have increased the size and diversity of our audience.
- Our community service efforts continued last quarter with a team replanting of *Opuntia* and *Grusonia* cacti that were removed for trail building.

Continued page 18

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>

Jul 6 Potluck and cactus raffle. Bring a dish or snack to share and leave with at least one new cactus! All members in good standing will receive raffle tickets and get to select a small cactus when their number is called. Experts from the Cactus and Rock Club will be able to advise on how to care for the new plant. There are often more cacti than members, so each person receives multiple plants!

Aug 3 Meeting. "Agave Restoration Initiative by Bat Conservation International."

To support the recovery of the Mexican long-nosed bat, the continued conservation of all pollinating bats, and the agave landscape upon which these bats rely, BCI has launched an Agave Restoration Initiative across Mexico and the Southwestern US. Rachel Burke, Agave Restoration Coordinator for BCI, will give an overview of this program, talk about how it relates to her previous research on agave distribution and landscape health, and discuss why healthy underlying native plant



Havard Agave (*Agave havardiana*), a necessary plant for bat survival, in Big Bend. Image: Kevin Floyd

Continued page 18

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. 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/>

- The Gila Chapter has been actively involved in Gila Centennial events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the designation of the Gila Wilderness, the first in the country. In late May/early June, we contributed by organizing three field trips and a program on native plants and pollinators and had a booth on the event day in Gough Park.
- Our annual native plant sale occurs on Saturday, **August 17th**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the parking lot across from Gough Park. See our ad on page 6. We have lined up five native plant nurseries to sell what they have grown directly to customers.
- Work is proceeding in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden to implement Phase One of our Master Plan with the Trails + Grant we received from the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division. Among other things, the section devoted to the Butterfly Garden was redesigned with a new bolder butterfly, and two new benches will be installed in collaboration with Heart of the Gila. The enhanced Butterfly Garden will be rededicated on **September 14th**, the 10th anniversary of the helicopter crash that killed three Aldo Leopold students, all promising naturalists, as they surveyed the Gila National Forest. Also this summer, Ashley Pedersen, PhD candidate in landscape design, will prepare a detailed plan for the future pollinator garden, including interactive exhibits for kids.
- When the rains come, hopefully in July, we will plan some field trips and landscaping tours. Check on our website at www.gilanps.org/events/field-trips.



Phase One work continues on the Butterfly Garden. Image: Margie Gibson

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.

Las Cruces chapter president, Gordon Berman reported on the April field trip to White Sands.



Buried Alive! No, not the chapter members on the hike. And, yes, that is a cottonwood they are standing in front of. Read on to find out "what gives."

Image: Gordon Berman

Turquoise blue above, crystalline white below, the Dunes Life Nature Trail at White Sands National Park led the Las Cruces Chapter up and down, out and around and circuitously back—its mile long course sprinkled with purple sand verbena (*Abroonia angustifolia*), freckled frosted mint (*Poliomintha incana*), propeller petaled fan mustard (*Nerisyrenia linearifolia*), and pedestal mounted littleleaf sumac (*Rhus microphylla*). All delightful, but what amazed us were the dunes topped by cottonwood trees, their trunks buried beneath.

There are several cottonwoods growing along the upper reaches of the Dunes Life Nature Trail, though none on the bottom flats between the dunes. Rich Spellenberg explained that the trees must have gotten interdunal starts years ago under ideal conditions, their roots drawing from the shallow water table, their canopies growing quickly enough to extend above the shifting sands covering their trunks. What we are now seeing are topmost canopies of mostly buried 30 to 40 foot tall trees. Rich added, "These cottonwoods belong to a system of three widely distributed more or less distinguishable population systems that are not genetically isolated from one another. They inter-

Continued page 18

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.

To keep up to date with our happenings, please visit our Facebook group.

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.

- In April, Izzy Barr and botanical artist Lynn Grimes spoke about the Railyard Conservancy's project of printing a beautifully illustrated guide to native wildflowers of the Railyard Park. The printing of the brochure was supported by a Carter Conservation grant in 2023.
- Our last talk in May was about Rio Grande Return's fabulous efforts to restore headwater streams in northern New Mexico.
- Chapter members also volunteered in staffing an NPSNM table for Earth Day at the Railyard in April and for the Santa Fe Master Gardener Garden Fair in May.
- During the upcoming months, the Santa Fe chapter is planning several field trips and events and a summer



Jennifer Pedneau and Carole Owen at the Santa Fe Master Gardener Garden Fair in May. There were over 2000 attendees. Image: Sylvan Kaufman

Continued page 18

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](mailto:mary_adams_co@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 is hosting the state conference from July 25-28 at the Sagebrush Inn & Suites, Taos. Conference information is posted on <https://www.npsnm.org/2024-annual-conference-taos/>

The final program for the conference is on pages 7–14 of this newsletter. Please pull out this section and bring it with you, or reference it on your phone at the conference website.

See you in Taos!

Aug 7 Meeting cancelled due to conference

Aug 17 Hike. Comales Canyon. Meet 9:00 am SW corner of Walmart lot

Sep 3 Meeting. Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic and his history in NM

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Chapter Activities, Continued from page 16

More from Albuquerque

- New volunteers have begun participating in the maintenance and enhancement of our Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat, which has sparked interest and appreciation from the city of Albuquerque. They will be providing a new connection to reclaimed water we will use to revegetate barren areas.



An early June field trip with Albuquerque chapter members in Las Huertas Canyon near Placitas. The leader, Lenore Goodell, is pointing out a special feature in the woods. Image: Tom Stewart

- Field trips have taken advantage of the improved spring moisture, finding an amazing diversity of wildflowers in the Quebradas Scenic Byway.
- Two hikes in the Sandia foothills introduced new members and friends to the surprisingly accessible and charming native plants, unknown to most, at Albuquerque's doorstep.

More from El Paso

communities can support the persistence of agave populations in the southwestern US.

Sep 6 Meeting. "Growing cacti and native plants from seed." Paul Hyder and Ad Konings explain how they grow their plants from seed and will bring out some soil and seeds to give a hands-on demonstration. Seeds will be available for anyone who wants to try growing their own plants from seed.

More from Las Cruces

grade. They have been treated formally as differing at the species, subspecies, and varietal levels, tough for the professional and a taxonomic nightmare for the layman. Vernacular names applied to these systems, Eastern, Fremont, and Rio Grande cottonwood have all been used for the White Sands plants. Under one view, these plants in question are the Rio Grande Cottonwood."



Sand verbena (*Abronia angustifolia*) and propeller petaled fan mustard (*Nerisyrenia linearifolia*), were just two of the plants observed on our White Sands visit. Image: Gordon Berman

More from Santa Fe

social. Events will include a nature journaling workshop and small garden tour.

- We are always looking for volunteers to help lead field trips.
- Work days at Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve are also being planned with Yvonne Hickerson of the Institute for Applied Ecology.

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Updates from the State Botanist, Continued from page 15

In other news, the Botany Team's (myself and two staff) field season will soon be underway with a packed calendar of rare plant surveys and monitoring that will take us to nearly all four corners of the state, working with several partners along the way. Because our Endangered Plant Program is primarily federally funded through a grant (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) made available through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, our work is often focused on federally listed species or species being considered for listing.

Consequently, this field season we will continue our long-term monitoring efforts for *Cirsium wrightii* (Wright's marsh thistle), *Helianthus paradoxus* (Pecos sunflower), *Sclerocactus mesae-verdae* (Mesa Verde cactus), *Pediocactus knowltonii* (Knowlton's cactus), *Astragalus humillimus* (Mancos milkvetch), and *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus* (Holy Ghost ipomopsis). We are adding new surveys and monitoring for *Cirsium vinaceum* (Sacramento Mountains thistle), *Argemone pinnatisecta* (Sacramento prickly poppy) and *Agalinis calycina* (Leoncita false foxglove). We are also assisting BLM botany staff in surveying for new populations of *Linum allredii* (Allred's flax) and *Amsonia tharpaii* (Tharp's blue-star) in the Carlsbad area, among other rare plant treasure hunts, all of which sustains us as botanists!



Sclerocactus mesa-verde during 2023 monitoring efforts, near Farmington. Image: Erika Rowe

As I prepared for a presentation for the 10th Annual Natural History of the Gila Symposium earlier this spring, I was reminded of how much work we could be doing in this biodiversity hotspot of New Mexico and of how little botanical attention it is receiving.

Currently, there are approximately sixty-six rare plant species that occur either within the Gila National Forest or surrounding areas, according to the Rare Plant Technical Council's list of rare species, nine of which are also listed as state endangered. For many of these species, there is very little information about their habitat requirements, conservation needs, or even the status of known populations. This is true not only for rare plant species in the Gila region, but also across the state. It is an issue I hope to devote more attention to with support of the Rare Plant Technical Council and continuing partnerships with the Native Plant Society. The extent of this work may seem like a large hurdle to overcome, but as Lao Tzu once said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." ❖

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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. 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

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Taos mountains are calling!

July 25–28, 2024

The Conference Program may be found on pages 7-14.

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You can always come early and stay longer in Taos!



Image: Erica Rowe

Above: State Botanist Erika Rowe describes how federal and state regulations structure her work and what is involved in monitoring plants. Article on page 15.

Above right. Catch up with what the various chapters are doing and seeing. Las Cruces' spring visit to White Sands was definitely a "photo op." Chapter Activities start on page 16.



Image: Gordon Berman



Image: Mary Adams

From sweeping vistas to close-ups of pollinators noshing out, the Annual Conference will have it all.



Image: Mary Adams