

Santa Fe Chapter Annual Report 2024

Board Members and Volunteers as of 11/24

President and Treasurer: Sylvan Kaufman

Vice President:

Membership: Joy Ford

Conservation Committee Representative:

Representative to the Board: Barbara Fix

Programs: Thomas Antonio, Sylvan Kaufman, Barbara Fix, Donna Eagles

Promotion: Pam Wolfe

The chapter held a vote on new bylaws at its November meeting (the original bylaws were lost somewhere along the way) and elected new officers. The bylaws have been posted on the chapter's page of the NPSNM web site. Sylvan Kaufman was elected as the President. Outgoing president Thomas Antonio was recognized at the member's holiday party for his 19 years of service to the chapter!

1. Evening Programs

Programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September – May at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe. An average of 40 people attend meetings.

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6:30pm – Santa Fe Chapter Meeting. Bob Sivinski spoke on "Unique to New Mexico: Isolated Endemic Plants"

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6:30pm – Santa Fe Chapter Meeting. Gavin M. Jones, Ph. D, Research Ecologist with the Rocky Mt. Research Station. "Conserving forests and wildlife in the age of megafires"

Wildfires are a natural and important process in ecosystems. But land use change and climate change are driving larger, more severe fires that can threaten native plants and animals in the American Southwest. In this talk, I will discuss how and why fire regimes are changing, how plants and animals are responding, and what can be done to conserve sensitive species going forward. I will focus heavily on my work on spotted owls in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, using the owl as an example of the delicate balance between forest ecosystem restoration and sensitive species conservation.

Gavin (he/him) is a Research Ecologist with [Rocky Mountain Research Station – Wildlife Ecology Program \(USDA Forest Service\)](#) and holds an appointment as an adjunct Assistant Professor in

the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico. He completed his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, and did postdoctoral research in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. Gavin is an Associate Editor at [Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment](#) and [Fire Ecology](#) which are the flagship peer-reviewed scientific journals of the Ecological Society of America and the Association for Fire Ecology.

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30pm – Santa Fe Chapter Meeting. Izzy Barr, Executive Director of the Railyard Park Conservancy. ‘Wildflowers of the Railyard Park’. Izzy will be discussing the Railyard Park’s wildflower booklet (printing funded by NPS) and how it fits into their larger efforts to educate the community about the importance of the Park's biodiversity to long-term environmental sustainability.

Izzy Barr is the Executive Director of the Railyard Park Conservancy. She moved to Santa Fe in 2003 from Los Angeles, trading in a 10-year career in public relations and marketing for a pair of Felco clippers. She has been working on and off in landscape maintenance and installation ever since, with pit stops in property management and medical cannabis production. Izzy joined the Railyard Park Conservancy (RPC) as a volunteer in early 2021 when, looking for a chance to work outside and give back to the community, she joined both Yardmasters and the Horticulture Committee. She was named the RPC’s Executive Director in March of 2022.

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30pm – Santa Fe Chapter Meeting. Renee Galeano-Popp, Botanist, ‘**What the Heck is a Herbarium?**’ Renee will talk about the uses, values and history of herbaria. She will share her recent experiences working in two Santa Fe herbaria.

Renee Galeano-Popp is a retired Botanist/Forest Ecologist. She did her undergraduate and graduate work at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. She was formerly Regional Botanist for the Forest Service in Albuquerque and assistant staff on the Lincoln National Forest. She moved to Santa Fe in 2022.

Tuesday, May 14 6:30pm – Santa Fe Chapter Meeting. ‘Process-based Beaver Habitat Restoration in Headwater Streams of Northern New Mexico’. Join Reid Whittlesey, Restoration Program Director with Rio Grande Return, as he addresses using ecological restoration techniques and partnering with beaver to achieve watershed restoration goals. Creating conditions that allow natural, healthy stream processes to return has been shown to have high levels of efficacy in headwater stream systems. Through using these process-based methods, particularly when partnered with beaver, the outcomes can have significant benefits to wildlife as well as downstream water users.

Reid Whittlesey graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Ecological Restoration. He has successfully managed the implementation of over 50 federal, state, and private water quality, riparian ecosystem, wildlife habitat, and watershed improvement projects and has been working in the field of restoration since 2009. Before

becoming the Restoration Director for Rio Grande Return, Reid served briefly as the Acting Restoration Director at WildEarth Guardians after having worked as their Program Field Coordinator for ten years from 2009-2019. He enjoys rock climbing, skiing, botanizing, and trying to reduce the erosion rates on his property north of Santa Fe.

August 21. Member's Summer Social at Plants of the Southwest.

Tuesday, September 10. 6:30pm - Teresa Quinata, IAIA Program Associate, Land Grant Garden. "Amaranth Planting and Harvest".

Tuesday, October 8 6:30pm- Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. "An Introduction to iNaturalist". As an amateur naturalist, Zac Carlson has found iNaturalist to be a valuable tool in helping to teach him about biodiversity and the ability to identify numerous species. For the last six years he learned to better utilize the tools and techniques that this unique technology provides in species identification. Learn some of these tools and techniques to make better observations that can support research across the globe and learn to use this website and app to the full potential that it can provide.

Tuesday, November 12. 6:30pm Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. "Sunflower: History, Culture, and Evolution". Dr. Thomas Antonio has taught at IAIA for 14 years. He received his PhD in Botany from the University of Oklahoma, his doctoral research took place in Central & South America. Before coming to IAIA he was a professor at the College of Santa Fe and took students each year to Brazil. He worked as a botanist for many years at the Chicago Botanic Garden where he authored a book on Sunflowers. In addition, he was one of 3 members of a delegation to Russia as part of US/Russia Botanical Exchange Program.

December 8. Member's Holiday Social at Tom Antonio's.

2. Field Trips

June 1 Field Trip, 9:30 am – 12pm. Botanist Bob Sivinski led this walk through Cerrillos Hills State Park to see the giant helleborine orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*). This beautiful wetland orchid only grows at calcareous springs and seeps in otherwise dry regions. There are other native wetland plants at this spring. We returned on the J. C. Sanchez Trail for a 1 mile hike back to the parking area to look at the local upland flora in this historic mining district. 22 Attendees

July 13 Nature Journaling, 9am – 12pm at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

The outing was led by artists Lynn Grimes and Monica O'Keefe, and was limited to 15 people. "We'll talk about nature journaling, show some examples, and share some books on the topic. Then we'll wander the garden to choose spots to do some journaling. The scope of nature journaling is pretty wide open -- it can be sketching with pencil and/or ink, applying color with watercolor paints or colored pencils or even crayons, and making notes about the location

(the weather, the plants, the birds, the insects). You can have more sketches or more notes, whatever interests you the most at that time and location.”

You can see Monica's work at <https://www.monicaokeefe.com/about> and Lynn Grimes' at <https://www.instagram.com/lynnggrimes55/>. Lynn spoke with Izzy Barr about the Railyard Conservancy's native plant guide at our March meeting and presented her original paintings for the booklet. 13 Attendees

Native Plant Garden Tour, Saturday August 3.

This garden tour features two very different gardens in different stages of development. We will discuss many different native plants suitable for different landscape situations as well as how gardens develop and change over time and garden design with native plants. There is a limit of 20 people for this tour. Participants should bring hats, water, and sunscreen.

10am – 11:30 am. Greer Garden. Visit the lovely garden of Lucy and Michael Greer on Santa Fe’s south side near the Chavez Community Center. This garden features more than 60 species of native plants and was designed and installed in cooperation with The Raincatcher in 2020. Since planting, they have seen more than 50 species of birds visit the garden!

11:30 – 1:00 pm. Lunch. Participants may choose to lunch separately or together. Legal Tender in Lamy opens at noon on Saturday and is less than a mile from the second garden.

1:00 – 3:00 pm. Anderson Garden. Allen’s approximately 30 acres in Lamy is transitioning from more traditional plantings that include many non-native plants and extensive market vegetable gardens to native plantings. It features both lushly planted garden spaces near the house and guest house as well as terraced areas with amended soils that have lots of possibility for new native plantings. Bring your ideas on how to transform these different garden spaces! Sylvan will be leading the tour with Allen there to answer questions about the development of the garden. There is limited parking, so we will meet at the Lamy Train station to carpool, or if you want to walk from the station, it is about ¾ of a mile to the house on a dirt road. 20 Attendees.

3. Projects

Multiple days.

In cooperation with the Cactus Rescue Project, weeding and other maintenance of the Cactus Garden on the Acequia Trail-35 hours. Other maintenance of the Acequia Trail-20 hours.

Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve invasive plant removal - Barbara Fix (NPS) and Yvonne Hickerson from the Institute for Applied Ecology. The chapter reimbursed Yvonne for expenses related to invasive plant management at the preserve (\$652.48). ~40 hours

The Roger Peterson Herbarium has been moved to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden as of July. Reneé Galeano-Popp is the primary volunteer with that project.

Carol Johnson requested and received the state Native Plant Day Proclamation for Aug. 17.

NPSNM Plant Posters – After approval by the state board in September, the chapter has moved forward with revising the Spring and Summer and Summer and Fall plant posters. A botanical illustrator has been hired to change musk thistle to NM thistle and wild morning glory to Lindheimer’s morning glory. The original posters were scanned at high resolution for editing. Allen Anderson has given the chapter \$10,000 for revision and reprinting of the posters.

4. Outreach Events

April 20, 2024 Earth Day at the Railyard, 3 volunteers, 10 hours volunteer time total

May 11, 2024 Master Gardener Garden Fair, 4 volunteers, 15 hours volunteer time total

5. Financial Report

Sylvan Kaufman has submitted the chapter’s financial report for 2024.

Donations were received from Truel and Joan West (\$3000) and from Allen Anderson for posters (\$10,000).

Expenses over \$200 included venue rental (\$400), LCWP support (\$652), member’s socials and meeting snacks (\$344).

Total Income \$15,365.67 Total Expenses \$1,884.13 Total Assests (12/31/24): \$26,867.77

This annual report is respectfully submitted by Sylvan Kaufman, President, Santa Fe chapter of the Native Plant Society of NM.