

TAOS CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

2013 Annual Report

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***** NPSNM-Taos Special Projects & Notes *****

1. Demonstration Garden in front of Brodsky's bookstore: Cleaned up and irrigation redone by Richard Rubin
2. Greenhouse renovation: We are the only chapter that propagates and sells native plants to the community. 45 different species were planted last year and we have embarked on a major renovation to enhance the propagation of natives.
3. Created a brand: "Flora ~ Friends ~ Fun", trying to "walk the talk". Membership increased by more than a third from 2012
4. Monthly articles in *Taos News*, written by Bev Haldiman
5. Annual end-of-year social included a raffle and silent auction of items (donated by member artists) that netted \$455
6. Facebook Page is used for posting information and pictures
7. A Herbarium (for the serious botanists and students), is currently housed at the County Agricultural Extension Office

***** NPSNM-Taos PROGRAMS *****

TALKS sponsored by the Taos Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM-Taos) are held in the Taos Convention Center from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, April through November. Our talks are free and open to the public.

FIELD TRIPS/HIKES are free and open to the public. Please bring plenty of water, comfortable walking shoes, snack/lunch, sunscreen, hat and a smile!

***** 2013 SCHEDULE *****

April 17 (Talk): Meet our new Extension Agent, Tony Valdez (a local Taoseño), for a native plant Q&A.

May 22 (Talk): Attend a 'just-in-time' talk presented by Dr. John Ubelaker, SMU-Taos, regarding the hummingbirds of North Central New Mexico and their favorite native plants.

May 25 (Half Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. John Ubelaker at the Ft. Burgwin-SMU campus to learn about plants of the Transition Zone. This zone extends from about 6,000 to 8,000 feet and is characterized by groups of native Ponderosa pines. At the SMU-in-Taos campus at Ft. Burgwin, we will examine the biology of this tree and other trees that are invasive from higher to lower zones. Native flowering plants will also be viewed and discussed.

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June 15 (All Day Field Trip): Cool off with us in the mountains on an all-day field trip/hike with Dr. Ubelaker on the Italianos Trail to learn about plants of the Canadian Zone. Cross mountain streams seven times and hike an old mule trail which moved gold from the mountain top to the bottom for processing. We will also hike to an Aspen grove and learn about the role of aspen in the spruce and fir forest.

June 19 (Talk): Attend a talk presented by Dr. Dave Dubois regarding the future prospects for our climate in the Taos area for the next 50 to 60 years, including the trickledown effect on plants and animals in our area.

June 20, Thursday (Plant Sale): Native Plant Sale for **MEMBERS ONLY** at our greenhouse.

June 22, Saturday (Plant Sale): Native Plant Sale for the General Public at Taos Farmers Market at 8 AM. Purchase your native plants, grown and nurtured in our greenhouse!

June 28, Friday (Tour): Gardens in Progress Tour for **MEMBERS ONLY**. Tour the gardens of private homes to learn how easily you can integrate beautiful, low maintenance native plants into your landscape. At the end of the tour, enjoy a potluck lunch at a member's home.

July 6, Saturday (All Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. Ubelaker to carpool to Box Canyon on Ghost Ranch for a hike on a secure trail. We will walk approximately one mile alongside a stream to view a bank of orchids watered by seepage from the canyon wall. Depending on water flow, we may also see a waterfall. (*Easy hike with an approximate altitude range from 5,000 feet to 5,100 feet. Bring a walking stick if desired.*)

August through November: Members and friends alike are encouraged to begin harvesting native plant seeds. How? Place seeds in **paper envelopes or sacks**, label with the common name (botanical if known), collection date, and then seal. For larger seed heads or large quantities, place them in a paper bag, seal and label. When collecting in the wild, take no more than 10% of seeds in a given plant stand. Bring your seeds to our meetings, give to a NPSNM member or drop them off at our Greenhouse. We appreciate your help!

August 3, Saturday (All Day Field Trip): Meet David Witt at 8 AM at the Williams Lake trailhead. We will walk two miles to Williams Lake and focus on sub-alpine and alpine plants. (*Moderate hike with an approximate altitude range from 10,100 feet to 11,100 feet. Bring a walking stick if desired.*)

August 19, Monday (Half Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. Ubelaker at 9 AM to carpool to the old hippie colony, New Buffalo, in Arroyo Hondo (limited parking at New Buffalo). We will learn about composting and gardening techniques in the high desert. Optionally, bring gloves if you want to volunteer some time afterwards to weed the vegetable garden!

September 11, Wednesday (Field Trip): **MEMBERS ONLY**. Meet at 9 AM at the Ranchos Church to carpool to Tooley's Tree Sale in Truchas.

September 25, Wednesday (Talk): Attend a talk presented by Bob Pennington, owner of Santa Fe's Aqua Fria Nursery, regarding New Mexico's sun-loving, drought-tolerant gorgeous penstemons. Learn about the flower colors and why some pollinators are attracted to only certain colors. Bob will share his easy 'growing from seed' techniques. Seeds collected by Bob will be available for purchase after the talk.

October 16, Wednesday (Talk): Due to emergency surgery, the talk and workshop by Dr. Jack Carter are cancelled. In his place, we are offering a special free DVD screening of "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time." This is an Emmy-winning documentary on one of our earliest ecologists. The film beautifully portrays both Leopold's personal life and his work in land conservation from the Southwest to the Midwest. His memoir, "A Sand County Almanac," remains a bible of sorts for environmentalists worldwide.

November 20, Wednesday (Annual Social & Election of 2014 Officers): There will be a silent auction of donated art items and a raffle. Raffle ticket prices are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. Become a member!