

Annual Report – 2015
Albuquerque Chapter of the
Native Plant Society of New Mexico

OFFICERS

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Core Group (essential volunteers, invited to board meetings)

Communications: Gary Hoe, 505-296-3654, hoebeau@cnsps.com
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Book Marketer: Silda Mason, 505-344-4297, sirqmason@yahoo.com
Garden Center Chair: Irene Scotillo, 980-0203
Educational Outreach: Pam McBride, 343-9472, ebotpam@msn.com

PROGRAMS and FIELD TRIPS

Average meeting attendance was about 65 people, often with up to 25 visitors from our newspaper announcements. Field trips averaged 20-25 people.

January 7th. Meeting. "Landscaping with native plants adapted to the three eco-regions of Albuquerque." George Miller, author of "Landscaping with Native Plants of the Southwest" and President of our Albuquerque chapter of NPSNM will show us how to landscape with wildlife-friendly plants adapted to the three major ecological regions of Albuquerque. He will discuss the amazing adaptations of the plants and the animals they support and how we can restore native habitats in our yards and neighborhoods.

February 4^h. Meeting. "Flora of the Four Corners Region." Ken Heil, Botanist, author, Professor Emeritus of Biology/Geology and current adjunct Professor of Biology at San Juan College in Farmington, introduces us to this unique flora described thoroughly with numerous keys in the recently published 1098-page "Flora of the Four Corners Region: Vascular Plants of the San Juan River Drainage – Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah." The book is a 2014 finalist for the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, was 15 years in the making and includes full descriptions, art-work by Carolyn Crawford and Glenn Vandre and line Drawings by Linda Reeves. There have been approximately 50 contributors to the book, which was published by the Missouri Botanical Garden Press in 2013 with over 100 photographs.

March 4th. Meeting. "Butterflies, Birds and Bees: "Pollinators of New Mexico Wildflowers." Carolyn Dodson, who has taught New Mexico wildflower identification courses and published two related wildflower books, will explain the fascinating relationship between plants and their pollinators is a remarkable example of co-evolution. Flowers have developed conspicuous sizes, colors and odors to attract specialized pollinators. On their part, floral visitors show anatomical and behavioral characteristics that make them efficient fertilizers. Understanding the roles of flowers and their pollinators gives extra enjoyment to observing flowers in the wild and in the garden.

April 1st. Meeting. "The Disappearing Trees of Albuquerque: A Gruesome Tale of Woe Told in Words and Pictures." Albuquerque city forester Joran Viers examines the recent trend of tree canopy loss in Albuquerque. We will explore the various causes, some preventable and some not, and what might be done to reverse the trend. A general Question and Answer session on urban tree care in Albuquerque will follow the program.

April 11. Saturday Field Trip. Tree Care in Montgomery Park. Albuquerque city forester Joran Viers will discuss tree selection, planting, pruning and tree health care involving diseases and insects while walking through Montgomery Park. 9:00-11:00 a.m. Limit: 30 people. Directions will be provided to participants prior to trip. To sign up contact Jim McGrath at sedges@swcp.com or 505-286-8745.

Weekend Field Trip. April 18-19. Jarilla Mountains Cacti. View a hybrid swarm of *Echinocereus* cacti. Lisa Mandelkern, NPSNM-Las Cruces chapter, Leader. The Jarilla Mountains are about 30 miles

southwest of Alamogordo. That means this trip will involve an overnight stay in a motel in Alamogordo or camping a night in Oliver Lee State park on Saturday evening. We meet Lisa at 9:00 a.m on Sunday in Alamogordo. The actual field trip will end about 2:00-3:00 pm to allow participants to drive back to Albuquerque (about 4.5 hours). Passenger vehicles are OK, but high clearance vehicles are more desirable. The field trip will involve driving on dirt roads with frequent stops. There will be a limit of 12 participants. Please contact Jim McGrath (sedges@swcp.com or 505-286-8745) to sign up.

April 25. Saturday Field Trip. Pine Flats to see Pasque Flowers.

Gary Runyon, leader. Six miles south of Tijeras we will find Pasque Flower on the edges of the picnic ground. A one mile loop excursion reveals other locations and Easter Daisies. For those who want a day trip we will stop for lunch at Sabino Canyon on the way back. Check out the colorful history of Sabino at the Bernalillo open space web site. Meeting Place A @9:00 am, SE corner of Smith's parking lot at Tramway and Central.

May 6. Meeting. "Our Favorite Alpine Wildflowers." Al Schneider, author of the four corners wildflower website and the app, "Colorado Rocky Mountain Wildflowers," and retired geologist and alpine wildflower enthusiast, John Bregar, show us a bewildering array of alpine wildflowers they have encountered while exploring above treeline in southwestern Colorado.

May 23 Saturday. Habitat Landscaping Tour. Meet @ 9:00 am at Stop 1: Sandia High School pond and greenhouse, Jason Roback, science teacher and presenter (7801 Candalaria NE). Meet @ 10:15 at Stop 2: Unitarian Church, Habitat Garden, Virginia Burris, designer and presenter (3701 Carlisle Blvd NE). Meet @ 11:30 at Stop 3: Pam McBride's native plants and vegetable garden (5409 9th St NW). Directions: From I-25 going north, take the Comanche/Griegos exit. Go west to 4th street, turn right or north, go to the next traffic light at Douglas MacArthur (Powdrells is on the SW corner) and turn left or west. Go to 9th street and turn north. Go past a field enclosed with chain link fencing on the left. Our driveway is just past a small dirt road, Juanita Lane, on the left. My house is 5409, the house straight back. This driveway serves all six houses in the compound, so please park on 9th street and walk back. If you can't do the walk, then you can park in front of my house to the left or in front of my garage. Contact Carol Conoboy at 453-2802 on tour.

May 30 Saturday Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range. David L. Anderson, CIV, White Sands Missile Range, leader. Our convoy of 2 military and up to 10 group vehicles will travel to Trinity Lake Basin Grasslands, then up to Salinas Peak, elevation 8965 ft on paved, gravel and unpaved roads. We will pass through grassland and desert scrub, pinyon/juniper and then ponderosa pine woods. We will see many native grasses and desert wildflowers in bloom. Bring lunch and water. Sign up by April 12 by providing full name, contact phone number and email, as well as transportation and meeting place information to Carol Conoboy. (carolconoboy@gmail.com or 505.897.3530). Meeting place G @7:00 am, Saver's parking lot on Carlisle on NE side of Carlisle/Menaul intersection. Park behind Mattress Firm in SW corner of lot. We will carpool through Socorro for quick food/pit stop, then meet other members and our leader at Stallion Gate at 9:00 am. We will assemble in 10 good clearance vehicles and park extra cars.

June 3. Meeting. "Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico: Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Sandia and Manzano." Wildflower book author Larry Littlefield will present an overview of his and Pearl Burns's new book published by UNM Press. This book is a major expansion of their previous book that concentrated on the central mountains of the state. In addition to the 200 species included in the previous book are 165 more species of wildflowers and flowering shrubs extending to the Colorado border, including some 25 species in the Sandias and Manzanos not previously included plus many new photographs of species included in the previous book.

June 7. Sunday Field Trip. Early West Manzano Bajada. Don Heinze, leader. This is an easy trip with car stops. Possible highlights: evening primrose, suncups, 5 grama grasses, giant milkweed, cowpen daisy. Bring food, water, raingear, boots. ALB Meeting place G @ 9:00 am, Saver's parking lot on Carlisle on NE side of Carlisle/Menaul intersection. Park behind Mattress Firm in SW corner of lot.; Meeting place H in Los Lunas @10:00 am, SW corner of Home Depot parking lot by the sheds. Directions: From ABQ drive south on I-25 to Exit 203. Head east through 2 traffic lights. Home Depot is on left.

June 20. Saturday Field Trip. Wildflower Walk in Elena Gallegos Open Space. Larry Littlefield, Leader. 9:00 a.m. 2-3 hours. Access is from Tramway on Simms Park Road (located north of Academy Road). Meeting place is the Pino Trailhead Parking Lot – the far east end of the loop road – take one way road to the right. Where the loop road

turns back west, there are 3 parking areas and a rest room. There is a \$2 per vehicle entrance fee into the open space.

June 27. Saturday Field Trip. Early High Elevation, Pecos Canyon. Don Heinze, leader. This is an easy walk. Possible Highlights: Lady's slippers, many high elevation flowers. Bring food, water, raingear, boots. Meeting place D in ALB. @ 8 am, far north shopping center at San Mateo and Academy. Park near Wienerschnitzel. Meeting place in Pecos Canyon @ 11:00 am: Terrero Store in Pecos Canyon several miles north of Pecos on Highway 63..

July 1. Meeting. "Growing the Southwest Garden: Changing Rules for an Extreme Sport." Landscape designer Judith Phillips, who is the author of three books dealing with landscaping and gardening with native plants, introduces us to her latest book, "*Growing the Southwest Garden*," a book of strategies for coping with climate change. In a place where extremes are the norm we are confronting increasing heat and potentially catastrophic episodes of cold compounded by periods of extreme drought interrupted by isolated strong storm cells delivering more moisture over less land surface. More people share less available water. Native plants, especially locally sourced ones, are an essential part of creating a resilient garden, shading the soil and creating spaces to live comfortably outdoors. Water harvesting can often support as many plants as needed to shade residential spaces once the native plants are well established. Plants that are well adapted are easier to establish and manage and provide habitat for wildlife as well.

July 3. Friday Field Trip. Las Conchas Trail – Jemez Mountains. Pam McBride and Carolyn Dodson, leaders. The two-mile Las Conchas Trail follows the East Fork of the Jemez River along a level stretch of the stream, meandering through a series of open meadows in a scenic rocky canyon within a deep conifer forest. On our field trip we will see dozens of species of wildflowers. The rocky cliffsides host Taperleaf, Twinflower, Woodsorrel, Mountain spray, and Rattlesnake Orchid. On the meadows we may find Kittentails, Shooting Star and False Bugbane. The trailhead is on Highway 4, about two hours from Albuquerque. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. at G. Contact information: Pam McBride (343-9472) and Carolyn Dodson (268-7889).

July 17-19. Annual meeting of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico in Durango, Colorado.

August. No monthly meeting in August.

August 1. Saturday Field Trip. San Lorenzo Canyon. George Miller, leader. This botanically and geologically diverse BLM recreation area is located about 13 miles north of Socorro. We will begin searching for wildflowers in a broad desert environment and then proceed by vehicle toward the narrow canyon. Hike is easy walking up the flat canyon with a partially flowing stream for 1-2 miles, but there will be one minor rock scramble at the beginning. We'll look for seeps and trickles of water that support colonies of diverse plants. As the canyon narrows, the creek bed winds beneath towering cliffs with rock shelters, cracks and arches, and intriguing geological formations. Activity level: Moderate hike. Bring lunch and water. Limit: 15. Meeting Place G @8:00 am, Saver's parking lot on Carlisle on NE side of Carlisle/Menaul intersection. Park behind Mattress Firm in SW corner of lot.

August 15 . Saturday Field Trip- Late Season High Elevation, San Gregorio Lake. Don Heinze, leader. Highlights: high elevation coniferous forest, lake, and aquatic vegetation. Bring rain gear, hiking boots, water, and lunch. Meeting place D in ALB @ 8:00 am, Far North Shopping Center at San Mateo and Academy. Park near Wienerschnitzel. Meet in Cuba @9:30 am, at McDonald's. Directions: Take I 25 north of ABQ to Exit 242, Highway 550 to Cuba.

August 22. Saturday Field Trip. A Visit to El Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat. Judith Phillips, Alicia Quinones and Virginia Burris, leaders. @ 9:00-11:00 am. Meet on the north side of Oso Grande Park, on Morris St. one block north of Montgomery.

September 2. Meeting. "BEMP Studies of the Changing Middle Rio Grande Bosque." Dr. Kim Eichhorst, Co-Director of the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), explains what these studies have revealed about bosque ecology and the implications for management of the Rio Grande bosque. Kim also tells us how BEMP assists in exposing Albuquerque school children to scientific procedures and the bosque environment.

September 12. Saturday Field Trip. Rio Grande Bosque. Don Heinze, leader. This is an easy walk. Highlights: bosque, riparian and aquatic vegetation. Bring lunch, water, raingear, boots. Meeting place G in ALB@ 9:00 am, Saver's parking lot on Carlisle on NE side of Carlisle/Menaul intersection. Park behind Mattress Firm in SW corner of lot.; Meeting place H in Los Lunas @10:00 am, SW corner of Home Depot parking lot by the sheds. Directions: From ABQ drive south on I-

25 to Exit 203. Head east through 2 traffic lights. Home Depot is on left.

October 7. Meeting. "Impacts of wildfire on rare plants in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests." In 2012 and 2013 wildfires burned large tracks of the Gila and Lincoln National Forests. Both forests are known for their high plant diversity and high levels of plant endemism. Significant portions of the distribution ranges of these rare species burned. No previous study has investigated the impacts of mega fires on rare plants on the sky islands of New Mexico. Daniela Roth, the Endangered Plant Program Coordinator for the New Mexico Forestry Division, studied the recovery of 13 species of rare and endemic plants post fire and will present her findings and management recommendations.

October 10. Garden Tour. "Gardening in Decomposed Granite...My 19 year Journey!" From 10–11:30 am at the home of Dianne Rand. Dianne will share the story of her garden in the Northeast Heights. Native and drought tolerate plants replaced most of the water thirsty grass of 1996. Medicinal herbs, a fairy garden, and lots of shade all add to a feeling of sacred space as you relax and enjoy your time here. (Diane will present the Nov. program on "Folk Healing Practices in the Southwest and Mexico Plants Used by the Curanderos.") Meet at 2449 Hiawatha Dr NE, 87112. Go 5 blocks east of Juan Tabo on Manual then turn left on Hiawatha. The house is the 11th house on the left.

October 21, Wednesday. Field Trip. [Cancelled—rain] A TOUR OF A BEMP (Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring program) SITE. Dr Kim Eichhorst, Co-director of the BEMP program, Leader. 9:30-11:30. The BEMP site chosen is a site adjacent to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (the southwest corner of the refuge). The site includes restored wetlands, uplands and the Rio Grande is an easy walk if participants so desire. If you are interested in the tour, please contact Jim McGrath at sedges@swcp.com or 505-286-8745 to sign up. We limit the number of participants for the tour to 15. We will car pool from one of our meeting places at 9:00 a.m. or Jim will provide directions to the site meeting place.

November 4. Meeting. "Folk Healing Practices in the Southwest and Mexico Plants Used by the Curanderos." Diane Rand: speaker. Plants Used by the Curanderos. Herbalist, passionate gardener and family nurse practitioner Dianne Rand discusses the history of folk medicine in the Southwest and Mexico with an emphasis

on the medicinal plants used by the Curanderos and native healers. She will share some Curandero practices and their relationship with the plants as their allies. There is an interest and resurgence in keeping these traditions alive.

December 5. Annual Holiday Potluck and officer election at Pam McBride's home. 11-2 p.m.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant program presentations

1. Xeric Garden Club
2. Santa Fe Master Gardeners
3. East Mountain Garden Club

Tabling Events

Valle de Oro NWR: March, September

Library books(offered for sale at each meeting): Inventory \$960.00

Treasurer report: Assets Dec. 31, 2015 \$17,977.22

Report prepared January 18, 2016 by George Miler, President,
Albuquerque Chapter