

2014 and Early 2015

REPORT OF THE LAS CRUCES CHAPTER OF NPSNM

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2014 Events

[2015 January & February meeting are on 2014 Report; *participant numbers in () after each event*]

February 12, 7 p.m. Meeting: David Dubois, NM State Climatologist, presented "The Changing Climate." (18)

February 15, 9:00 a.m. Field trip: Plant and Environmental Sciences Professor Rolston St. Hilaire took us on a tour of the NMSU campus to observe elements of landscaping. (12)

Sat. Mar. 1, 9:00-Noon: Native Plant Day at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park: We helped spotlight the importance of plants in desert ecosystems and support a cacti-rescue event. (7)

March 12, 7 p.m. Meeting: NMSU Herbarium Curator Patrick Alexander presented "Low Elevation Flora: What is Native?" (17)

March 15, 8 a.m. Field trip: Ray Bowers led us to see spring wildflowers at Leasburg Dam State Park. (10)

April 9, 7 p.m. Meeting: David Cristiani, landscape architect, presented "A Chihuahuan Desert Place; new takes on eco-region boundaries and subdivisions." (22)

April 12, 8 a.m. Field trip: We explored the Bishop's Cap area to observe cacti and other natives. (10)

April 19, 8 a.m. Garden Tour: We toured several members' gardens. (12)

Earth Day: We had very powerful winds! Few visitors—closed booth early, as did many others.

May 14, 7 p.m. Meeting: Ray Bowers presented "Costa Rica's Beautiful Flora." (19)

May 17, 8 a.m. [Field trip to WSMR postponed until August due to lack of wildflowers]

June 11, 7 p.m. Melly Locke, Sierra Middle School teacher: "Engaging Middle-School Students in Science." (8)

June 14, 10 a.m. Public showing of the documentary "Green Fire: *Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*," in the Auditorium of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good Samaritan Village. (25)

July 9, 7 p.m. Meeting: Dave Anderson presented "Rarest of the Rare: Native Flora of White Sands Missile Range." (19)

July 12, 8 a.m. Field trip: Several stops in La Luz Canyon. Thanks to Dr. Kelly Allred who lead us!

(11) **Aug. 13**, 7 p.m. 2014 Planning Meeting and Election (10)

Aug. 16, 8:00 a.m. Field trip: Dave Anderson led botanical tour of Hembrillo Canyon, on WSMR—complete with desert downpour! (22)

Sept. 10, 7 p.m. Meeting: Dr. Heather Throop presented “Global Change: Influences on Arid Systems.” (17)

Sept. 13, 8 a.m. Field trip: a plant walk on the west side of the Robledo Mountains: abundant grasses and wildflowers!

Sept. 28, noon: Volunteered planting natives at Bosque Nova (3)

Oct. 8, 7 p.m. Meeting: Lisa Mandelkern presented "Composition for Wildflower Photographers: Tips and Techniques to Give Your Photos More Impact." Lisa illustrated her very informative talk with many gorgeous photos. (19)

Oct. 11, 8 a.m. Field trip: We went to the Percha Box, a riparian area—148 species, many blooming! (9)

Oct. 18, 1 p.m. Potluck lunch & walk at La Cueva (Dripping Springs Natural Area, in Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument). (7)

Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Meeting: Dr. Patrick Alexander spoke on native plants and geology, particularly focusing on gypsophiles and scurfpeas. (19)

Nov. 15, 8 a.m. We hiked at San Diego Mt., finding a few plants still blooming—and plentiful rock art. (12)

2015 Event

Jan. 14, 7:00 p.m. Jeanne Tenorio spoke on insectivorous plants and her research on *Boerhavia*. (20)

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Gressitt