

2016 Donations, Grants and Teacher Award Announced

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 30, 2016 to consider donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso and grant proposals that were submitted in December 2015. And new this year, a Teacher Award.

Herbaria- Six hundred-dollar (up from \$500 in the past) donations will to be given to the following herbaria: University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso and Western New Mexico University.

For the first time, the **Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund** has been able to begin supporting the grant awards. The Society expresses much gratitude and appreciation to the Carters who generously established this fund and to all who have contributed to this worthwhile cause. *Please continue to support this fund so that it grows and can support the grants in the future.*

Grants- The following is a list of the grants that were awarded:

1 Desert Stories-Desert Plant Adaptations Lessons for 2nd and 3rd Graders
Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces, NM

2 Native Plant Curriculum for New Mexico
Melanie Gisler, Institute for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe, NM

3 Evolution and Systematics of *Oenothera* sect. *Calylophus* (Onagraceae)
Benjamin Cooper, Graduate student, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden

4 Gene Dispersal Across Gypsum Outcrops: Does seed or pollen dispersal drive genetic differentiation?
Study area: Yeso Hills in southeastern NM and adjacent TX
Emily Lewis, Research Technician, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden

5 Physiology of gypsophile lineages of the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico
Clare Muller, Graduate student, John Carroll University, Dept. of Biology

6 The genus *Carex* in New Mexico: Nomenclature, Distribution and Habitat II
William R Norris, Botanist, Silver City, NM

7 Blue Hole Cienega Nature Preserve Environmental Education Program
Christian LeJeune, Hydrologist Albuquerque, NM

8 Status of sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) Pollinators in southwest NM
Catherine Cumberland, Graduate student, UNM Dept. of Biology

9 Understanding seed dormancy and germination requirements in the Colorado Plateau
Alexandra Seglias, Graduate student, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden

Teacher Award

Ben Gillock, United World College, Agroecology Research Center, Las Vegas, NM

Ben plans to use his award to purchase native seeds for restoration of the meadow area at the college.