



NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2018

VOL. XXXXIII NO. 3

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Plants, People and Culture of the Gila

2018 Annual Conference

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6
PARTICIPANT CHECK IN

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7
CHECK IN CONTINUES
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8
PRESENTATIONS
TALKS, FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS
EVENING BANQUET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9
FINAL FIELD TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

SEPTEMBER 6 - 9, 2018
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NPSNM Outreach Coordinator Sara Digby created this beautiful poster to help spread the word about the 2018 Annual Conference. Notice the line about "Student/ Intern Scholarships." The Sunflower Scholarships are an exciting new initiative to promote conference participation by current students (undergraduate and graduate) and interns working with native plants. For more information, see this issue's Outreach Update (pages 8-9) and visit NPSNM.org/conference-scholarship.

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From the President

by Tom Stewart

All Together Now!

Back in my Cub Scout days we used to sing a corny old song that went, “The more we get together the happier we’ll be.” Corny but true, especially in the case of plant enthusiasts, spread out in a big state. So enthusiasm is swelling for the September 6–9 State Conference in Silver City, and the Gila chapter has put together a tantalizing agenda.

One can register using a mail-in form, but I just signed up via the NPSNM.org website and it was extremely easy. The difficult part was choosing among the delicious array of field trips and workshops for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Before you go to the registration form, be sure to look over the full program and decide on your choices. And take note of the list of field trips and workshops that are already closed.

There are at least three reasons for registering now: (1) Get this commitment on your calendar before your aunt and uncle invite you to their ninth annual renewal of marriage vows that same weekend. (2) You have a wide variety of field trips and workshops still available. (3) You save money by registering before August 1.

There is a box to check in order to voluntarily donate \$5 to help students attend. If you make that donation soon, you are still saving \$10 off the August price. Major institutions have withdrawn so much support from field biology in favor of molecular and computational studies that we are lucky to have students who are interested in our conference. Do it!

If you’ve attended these annual shindigs you know that



they go down as memorable high points of your year. Even without any field trips, the thought-provoking addresses and presentations and the networking and socializing would be reasons enough to go.

Beyond Blindness

There is a lot of talk these days about “Plant Blindness,” and well there should be. Show someone a picture of a wildflower with a spider on one petal and it is likely they will compliment you on the cool spider picture, right? We let this pass as just human nature, but there are more insidious consequences. For instance, the majority of life forms on the endangered species list are plants. Yet 95% of funding allocated for recovery is for animals.

Why are native plants often overlooked or downplayed when places where natural landscapes have been conserved are most attractive to home seekers, tourists, retirees and businesses. They remain more prosperous than cities, counties and suburban developments where nature has been degraded. We all sense this, and know that the native plants are essential to wildlife, scenic beauty, soil building, watersheds, pollination, and so much else.

This is why we have NPSNM, and besides the grants, publications, and public education we provide, we have aligned with the Native Plant Conservation Campaign. It is a network of many native plant societies, and we have signed on to their open letter asking for equal protection for plants. Please visit their website: <https://plantsocieties.cnps.org/>. ❖

Ballot
on facing
page

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Election of Officers

The election of officers of the Society takes place July 1–August 21, 2018. Results will be announced September 6 in Silver City at the Board of Directors meeting

held in conjunction with the annual state meeting. The two-year terms begin then. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has nominated these candidates:

President: Tom Stewart

Currently President of NPSNM. Albuquerque Chapter. Professional background includes cell biologist, pharmaceutical researcher, Sandia National Labs researcher. NPSNM member for over 20 years.

Vice President: Sue Small

Currently chair of the Albuquerque Chapter conservation committee. Sue is an avid hiker and has enjoyed collaborating with various other conservation groups.

Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse

Currently Recording Secretary of NPSNM. Gila Chapter. A retired clinical pharmacist, mother of three adult

scientists, Jane now focuses on studying the outdoor world, especially the plants, with her husband David.

Membership Secretary: Barbara Fix

Currently Membership Secretary of NPSNM; President 2014–2016. Santa Fe Chapter. Landscaper in Santa Fe, 1985–present; previously practiced law (JD, 1971, Stanford Law School). NPSNM member for over 20 years.

Treasurer: Anne Curley

Santa Fe Chapter. Lifelong Chicagoan, bookkeeper, horticultural therapist, nonprofit business manager retired to NM. Now a plant geek, composter, and beekeeper, excited and challenged by climate, soil, and plants of NM.

Taos Chapter Awards Two Educational Grants

by Jan Martenson, Taos Chapter President

The Taos chapter is pleased to announce the awarding of two grants, funded by income from our book and silent auction sales during the 2017 NPSNM Annual Conference. Andy Leonard, an instructor of physics and environmental science at Taos High School, received \$250. This will be used to jumpstart the school's AP environmental science program, allowing for the purchase of supplies for students conducting independent research required by the program. Andy was also awarded a hard copy of the grade 9-12 curriculum guide, *From Ponderosa to Prickly Pear*.

Opportunities abound for focusing on native and xeric gardens at several locations in Taos. According to Andy, some students "will be collecting native plants" and "cataloging them by documenting the environment and soils where they thrive. Others will be visiting current xeric gardens and using those as models for planned gardens at Taos High School and the Taos Land Trust [20-acre Rio Fernando Park]. Students will be documenting their research digitally and with oral presentations. This funding

will help provide opportunities to conduct independent research rarely covered in a traditional high school class." The Taos chapter looks forward to hearing about the students' research projects in 2019.

Allie Heller, former intern with the Taos office of the Bureau of Land Management who attended last year's NPSNM conference, is now a graduate student at New Mexico State University. Her research project will involve working with the Jornada Experimental Range Research Program and soil scientists from the Natural Resources Conservation Service out of Alamosa, CO, developing ecological site descriptions for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Allie described her role as "botanist to fully characterize and describe the plant communities of the ecological sites that will be delineated." She requested funding for supporting her field research over the next two summers, primarily for the purchase of a microscope, *Flora New Mexicana*, a plant press, and other supplies. Our chapter was able to make a long-term loan to her of a microscope and a cash award of \$140 for the other items. ❖

NPSNM BALLOT—Election of Officers, 2018

(Candidate information on facing page.)

This ballot may be duplicated for use by any NPSNM member. One ballot per member, and it must be signed by the voting member. Please consider adding nominees, especially for offices lacking them, and they will become official when you inform us at nativeplantsnm@gmail.com or by mail to the address below. Members will be notified of additional candidates by email or postcard as needed. Nomination deadline is July 31.

President: Committee Nominee, Tom Stewart

Write-in _____

Vice President: Committee Nominee, Sue Small

Write-in _____

Recording Secretary: Committee Nominee, Jane Kruse

Write-in _____

Membership Secretary: Committee Nominee, Barbara Fix

Write-in _____

Treasurer: Committee Nominee, Anne Curley

Write-in _____

Voter eligibility certification: I am a current member of NPSNM. Signed _____

*Print this ballot if from electronic newsletter. Ballots must be returned, postmarked by August 21, to:
Deb Farson, NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176*

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

July–September 2018. Vol. 43 No. 3. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Original articles from the newsletter may be reprinted if attributed to the author and to this newsletter.

Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM.

Next deadline is September 1, 2018. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, *sarita [at] gilanet.com*, or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

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Recording Secretary Jane Kruse

Membership Secretary Barbara Fix

Treasurer Pam McBride

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Las Cruces Joan Woodward

Otero Judy Allen

Santa Fe Tom Antonio

Taos Jan Martenson

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Outreach Coordinator Sara Digby [sara\[at\]appliedeco.org](mailto:sara[at]appliedeco.org)

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Mission The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is a non-profit organization that strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Gila National Forest Planning

This spring, as part of the ongoing forest planning process, the Gila National Forest held a public review period for a Preliminary Draft Management Plan. NPSNM responded with a statement supporting the general approach taken by the Plan, in which they define historic ranges of spatial and temporal variability by Ecological Response Unit (vegetation category), and aim to restore a similar range of conditions. However, we expressed our disappointment that climate change is underemphasized.

The new Plan will be intended to guide Forest management for the next 15 years—in reality, it may actually be in effect somewhere between 15 years and the nearly 35 years that the current Plan has lasted. Resiliency to disturbance will be harder to achieve if the Plan fails to use the best available scientific information, which indicates directional (warmer) change in climate and an increase in extreme weather events. It is crucial that adaptation to variability *outside the historic range* be emphasized, especially as applied to future fire management. The Preliminary Draft Plan does include examples of forethought, such as considering what happens if the 100-year flood becomes a 50- or 10-year event. We recommended that the forthcoming Monitoring section of the Plan should focus on detecting and mitigating the effects of climate change, through the use of adaptive management.

NPSNM also made a statement of support for a separate submission of two recommendations by the Gila Native Plant Society, a chapter of NPSNM. The Gila NPS gathered several highly qualified botanists with expertise in the state of New Mexico and with extensive experience in the Gila region. These experts agreed that plants identified in the past by the Forest Service as Species of Conservation Concern should not be taken off the list primarily because of a lack of data on their scarcity. Only if new data reflect that the population is much more stable or widespread should a species be dropped from the list. The Gila NPS attached a spreadsheet to their comments, showing information requested by the Gila NF staff about threats, management considerations, and unique habitat features of each of the proposed SCC. Their analysis identifies additional proposed species and provides rationales for listing these species. They also recommend dropping two of the SCC plants proposed by the Gila NF.

The second recommendation from Gila NPS is the creation of three Special Botanical Areas within the Forest. The three areas are Emory Pass (31,150 acres), Mogollon Mountains (98,510 acres), and Pinos Altos Mountains (20,930

acres). The location suggestions are based on extensive work done by the New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy released by the NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department in 2017. The Strategy identified important plant areas statewide and in the Gila. The mechanism for defining the Special Botanical Areas was to utilize highly clustered concentrations of SCC, and other rare and endemic plants, to form the boundaries. Designation of the SBAs would facilitate special management to monitor and protect rare plant populations.



Emory Pass.

Photo: Rachel Jankowitz

BLM Farmington Field Office Updates

Aztec Gilia

Early in 2015, NPSNM sent a letter to the FFO in response to a public comments request for the proposed Saddleback pipeline project near Lybrook. A major concern in our letter was the overlap of the pipeline right-of-way on habitat for two rare plant species. A new status report has just been released by the NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department for one of those species, the Aztec *gilia* (*Alicella formosa*), detailing the findings of field surveys undertaken in 2017.

The total worldwide distribution of this species is limited to an area of approximately 50 miles by 35 miles in San Juan County, NM. *A. formosa* is listed as Endangered by the state of New Mexico, is a BLM Sensitive Species, and is a candidate for listing as endangered on the Navajo Nation. In general, *A. formosa* occurs on eroding clayey sand soils on soft shaley sandstone strata in the northern badland regions of the Nacimiento Formation.



Aztec Gilia.

Photo ©Al Schneider

Chapter Activities & Events

For further information on the following events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page: First go to www.npsnm.org; click on Local Chapters; then

Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at [sedges \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:sedges@swcp.com) or George Miller at [goxfordm1844 \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:goxfordm1844@yahoo.com). For field trips, contact Carol Conoboy, [carolconoboy \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:carolconoboy@gmail.com), 505/897-3530. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

Jul 7 Sandia Mts. 10K Trail. Leader Pam McBride. Easy hike, 10,000' elev. Bring water, lunch. Meet 8 a.m. at [A].

Jul 11 Meeting. Can Agriculture and Conservation Co-Exist? What the Term *Organic* Actually Protects. Monica Pless, organic farmer.

Jul 21 Bandelier flower walk. Leader Charles Keller. Exact trail TBA. Meet 7:30 a.m. at [D] to carpool.

Jul 28 Milne Trail at Cedar Crest Post Office. Leader Dara Saville. Easy two-hour walk. Meet 9:15 a.m. at [A].

Aug 1 Meeting. New Mexico Bats and Their Bacteria: Landscape Complexity and Plant Diversity as Drivers. Ara Winter, post-doctoral UNM biologist.

Aug 4 Magdalena Mts., Timber Ridge. Leader George Miller. Moderately strenuous, high-elevation hike on uneven trail. Meet 8 a.m. at [G].

Aug 17–18 Holy Ghost Trail, Pecos Wilderness. Leader Tom Stewart. Advance sign-up required; contact Tom: [tstewart \[at\] cybermesa.com](mailto:tstewart@cybermesa.com). Arrive early on Friday if you wish to stay the night before at the campground.

Aug 25 El Malpais–El Calderon. Leader Pam McBride. About 100 miles from Albuquerque. Meet 8 a.m. at [G].

Sep 5 No monthly meeting.

Sep 22 Grasses of Valle Caldera National Preserve. Leader

select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground.

Charlie Jackson. Preregistration required. Details TBD.

El Paso

El Paso Chapter meetings are at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414, [jimhastings \[at\] elp.rr.com](mailto:jimhastings@elp.rr.com).

July 12 No monthly meeting.

Jul 15 Field trip. David and Susan Petty's passive solar home and xeric garden near Hueco Tanks. Meet 4 p.m. at Lowe's lot, E of Loop 357 on Montana Ave., to carpool.

Aug 9 Meeting. Plants of the Hembrillo Canyon, Victorio Peak and San Andreas Mountains on WSMR. Dave Anderson, retired WSMR range manager.

Sep 13 No monthly meeting. Meetings resume in October.

Sep 29 Field trip (pending) to White Sands Missile Range. Details will be provided closer to trip date.

Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, Rm. 219, with refreshments following the program. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre for carpooling. For more hike info, call Hanna Blood, 575/388-1530. Updates posted on GilaNPS.org.

Jul 15 Field trip. Sheep Corral, Pinos Altos Range.

Aug 19 Field trip. Fort Bayard preserve.

Sep 16 Field trip. Ira Canyon, Burro Mountains.

Sep 20–23 Gila River Festival. To avoid conflicting with this event, there will be no September meeting.



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Las Cruces

Meetings are fourth Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Field trips are usually Saturdays; most last into the afternoon. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; nonmembers always welcome. Contact: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413.

Jul 25 Meeting. Meet at NMSU Herbarium at 7 p.m. for evening tour of the facility, led by Dr. Sara Fuentes-Soriano.

Jul 28 Field Trip. Bridal Veil Falls, Sacramento Mountains. Leader Lisa Mandelkern.

Aug 22 Meeting. The Importance of Phenology. Dawn Browning.

Aug 25 Field Trip. Aguirre Springs.

Sep 26 Meeting. Botanical Gleanings of the Cowgirl Botanist. Kirsten Romig.

Sep 29 Field Trip. Red House Mountain.

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert [at] gmail.com, 575/443-4408; or Jennifer Gruger, jengruger [at] gmail.com, 505/710-2924. More info will be available by the beginning of each month.

Jul 28 Field trip. La Pasada Encantada Trail. Easy hike. Meet 8 a.m. SW corner Hwy 82/North Florida to carpool.

Aug 18 Field trip. White Sands Missile Range to Cox Ranch and Pat Garrett Home site. Leader Dave Anderson. Sign-up required; email Elva.

Sep 19–22 Otero County Fair. All help appreciated at our booth 9/19 evening and 9/20–9/22.

Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso; across street from fire station). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

July–September See website for details.

Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Free and open to the public. Check NPSNM website or Facebook for updates, or contact TaosNPS [at] gmail.com, or phone Jan Martenson at 575/751-0511.

Jul 14 Hike. Amole Canyon. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ranchos church to carpool. Easy hike under 3 miles.

Jul 19 Meeting (note: Thursday). Sagebrush: Our Native

Keystone Species. Lillis Urban, botanist/ecologist, BLM/Taos.

Jul 29 Hike. Agua Sarca Trail. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ranchos church to carpool. Moderate hike under 3 miles.

Aug 11 Hike. Williams Lake. Meet 8 a.m. at KTAO parking lot to carpool. Moderately strenuous. Bring lunch.

Aug 17 Native Plant Day Celebration. Visit our table at Cid's from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. for info, book and plant sales.

Aug 25 Field Trip. Stewart Meadows. Cheron Ferland, USFS wildlife biologist. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Visitors Center, W side Gorge Bridge. Lunch at Chile Line Depot, tour Aldo Leopold cabin and native garden, return at 3 p.m.

Sep 3 Hike. TBA.

Sep 19 Meeting. NM Rare Plant Conservation Strategy. Daniela Roth, EMNRD—Forestry Division.

Annual Conference Reminder

Don't forget to sign up for the NPSNM annual state conference, September 6–9, hosted by the Gila chapter in Silver City. The earlier you register, the better your chances of securing your preferred field trips or workshops—and the registration fee goes up August 1. You can register by mail or online—for all the information on the conference go to www.npsnm.org/events/2018-annual-conference.

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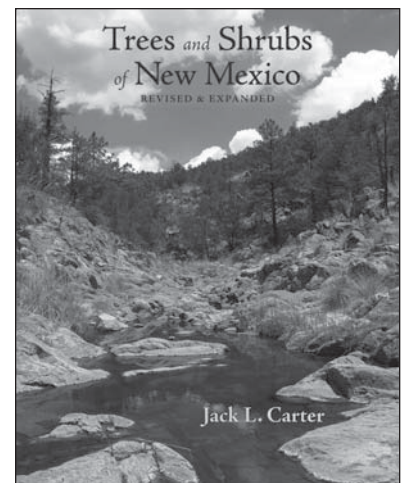
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New Mexico Close-Up: Bountiful Sumac

by Robert Sivinski, *Albuquerque chapter*

Rhus trilobata (three-leaf sumac) and *Rhus microphylla* (little-leaf sumac) are common large shrubs with tangy red fruits and beautiful amber-red foliage in autumn. The former is especially popular for native plant landscaping because of drought tolerance and fall color, yet its importance as a pollinator plant should not be overlooked. Sumac flowers open before the leaves emerge and are tiny (2–3 mm wide) with creamy or pale yellow petals, but they occur in clusters all over the bush and are some of the first spring flowers available to native insects (and non-native honey

bees). From March to early April you can stand in a sumac thicket and watch a flurry of bees and wasps nectaring at the abundant tiny flowers. Early emerging, solitary, ground-nesting bees such as small Halictidae (sweat bees) and Andrenidae (mining bees) are especially common in flowering sumac bushes. So don't forget to include sumacs in your pollinator garden. ❖

See photos on back cover!

Outreach Update

by Sara Digby, *NPSNM Outreach Coordinator*

Summer has hit and things are moving quickly! During the months of June and July, I will be less available, as I will be coordinating our summer youth program, Forest Bound. Please be patient with correspondence if I do not respond right away, as there are many things in the works over the summer. Here are some outreach highlights for you.

Our First Podcast

I had a wonderful conversation with Steve Cary recently about Monarch Butterflies, their habitat, importance, and relationship to native plants. This will soon be published as a podcast for all to hear. And stay tuned . . . our next podcast will feature Olivia Messinger Carril. Have someone you think would be great to have on the Native Plant Society Podcast? Let me know! Email sara@appliedeco.org.

Forest Bound—Summer Forest Immersion Program & Native Plant Training

Many of you have heard of this program, and it is well under way! This year the Institute for Applied Ecology has expanded Forest Bound from the Santa Fe National Forest to also include the Cibola National Forest. We will hold multiple sessions for youth aged 14–18 starting in June. We are so excited to continue Forest Bound, providing the opportunity for youth to engage with the outdoors in an experiential and meaningful way. We recently hired our third educator, Erin Earl, who will be leading the Cibola sessions in June and July. We focus on skill building as well as simply rekindling our innate relationship to the land we inhabit. Activities range from building our own plant press, collecting seed, and looking at ecoregions, to making native plant herbal recipes and food, monitoring plant areas, and learning to

discuss plants using botanical terms. At the end of the session students will receive a certificate in Basic Botany 101. A big thanks to the Native Plant Society for your continued partnership in making this program happen.

You can find more information about the program, as well as the curriculum, here: www.npsnm.org/curriculum-resources/

2018 Summer Photo Contest—*Snap That Plant!*

Join NPSNM for our first statewide Native Plant Photo Contest, *Snap That Plant!*

Do you enjoy taking photos of all the wonderful diverse plant species of New Mexico? Got some awesome photos to share? We want to see them! We are calling on all photographers, young and old, to join us in our exploration of New Mexico's native plants. Submit your native plant images—in the wild or in gardens; using plants as food or medicine; or interacting with people, animals, or insects—you name it! We want to showcase our community members and highlight the beauty of the Southwest. Get creative! Selected photographs will be featured in NPSNM publications and social media as well as our 2019 Native Plant Calendar. You could win fabulous prizes and get your photos featured by the local chapter or statewide, while joining the fun in providing a voice for native plants!

The photo contest will run July 1–September 30. For more information on the contest and to learn how to submit your photos, visit www.npsnm.org/summer-photo-contest

Native Plant Society Annual Conference

As most of you know, the annual conference is approaching us and the Gila chapter has done an exceptional job pulling

Continued page 9

Conservation Corner (continued from p. 5)

All of the known occurrences are on BLM active leased lands for oil and gas development. Plants not directly impacted by energy exploration and development can suffer indirect impacts from close proximity to roads and pipelines including impacts of dust, chemicals, air pollution, invasive species, and impacts on pollinators. Other potential stressors are off-road vehicle activities, livestock, prolonged drought and climate change, and herbivory by a moth larva.

The Saddleback project application was eventually withdrawn, due to economic considerations. If another pipeline, or other surface-disturbing activity, is proposed at that location, BLM now has the information they need in order to make decisions that are protective of this rare plant.

Resource Management Plan Amendment

BLM has been engaged in a formal planning effort on this Amendment since 2014, and held an additional round of public meetings early last year after the Bureau of Indian Affairs joined on as co-lead agency. The Amendment is required by the National Environmental Policy Act, to analyze the impacts of oil and gas development beyond that which was contemplated in the 2003 RMP currently in effect. Vegetation management is one of four resource programs to be

revisited (the others are fluid leasable minerals, lands and realty, and lands with wilderness characteristics).

Apparently feeling that they had to report some progress, the FFO released a January 2018 newsletter, announcing that preliminary alternatives have been developed for a Draft Environmental Impact statement. The newsletter states that there will be a No Action Alternative (as required by NEPA), one emphasizing healthy ecosystems, one where the focus is on cultural resource preservation, a third Action Alternative that allows greater opportunities for community resource development, and one that prioritizes economic returns. Beyond those general descriptions, however, the newsletter held no clue as to the policy elements that each alternative will comprise. To further confuse things, the BIA will propose five parallel alternatives, with the same emphases, but presumably differing in some specifics.

New Status Reports

The NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department has released six new reports about the status of state Threatened and Endangered species. Visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/ForestMgt/Endangered.html>, and you can read the latest about the plants on the table below.

Plant	Where It Lives
Lee's Pincushion Cactus (<i>Escobaria sneedii</i> var. <i>leei</i>)	Carlsbad Caverns National Park area in the Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy County
Knowlton's Cactus (<i>Pediocactus knowltonii</i>)	A small hill of about 10 hectares in San Juan County, New Mexico, just south of the Colorado/New Mexico border above Navajo Lake
Aztec Gilia (<i>Aliciella formosa</i>)	Endemic to San Juan County in New Mexico
Swale Paintbrush (<i>Castilleja ornate</i>)	A predominantly Mexican species, it is possibly extinct there. Southwestern Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Pecos Sunflower (<i>Helianthus paradoxus</i>)	Seven widely spaced populations in west-central and eastern New Mexico, and adjacent Trans-Pecos Texas
Holy Ghost Ipomopsis (<i>Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus</i>)	Holy Ghost Canyon in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of north-central New Mexico

Outreach Update (continued from p. 8)

together a diverse set of speakers, workshops, and field trips. If you haven't yet registered, make sure to do so, so you have access to your first choices.

New this year: In an effort to support our young leaders in the conservation and native plant world, we have provided an option for conference attendees to contribute to our scholarship fund for students and interns working with native plants. A simple \$5 goes a long way toward giving the

opportunity to a working student or intern who otherwise may not be able to afford this amazing conference. In your registration, simply check the box to donate and support our next generation of folks providing a voice for native plants.

If you know anyone who you think would be a great fit to receive this scholarship, have them visit www.npsnm.org/conference-scholarship

Thanks, folks! Happy wildflower hunting! ❖

Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico will make it possible for the Board to approve more funding for workshops throughout the state, additional basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and hopefully for the development and sup-

port of more early education programs from K–12 in New Mexico schools.

Use the form provided below, or contribute through PayPal on the website, www.npsnm.org. Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.
~Jack & Martha Carter

JACK & MARTHA CARTER CONSERVATION FUND DONATION FORM

Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora! Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name(s) _____

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All contributions are tax-deductible as provided under the law.

Make your check payable to: **NPSNM—Carter Endowment Fund**

and send to: Administrative Coordinator PO Box 35388 Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

Legacy: What we leave behind, we give to the future.

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information, [contact Tom Stewart at tstewart@cybermesa.com](mailto:tstewart@cybermesa.com)

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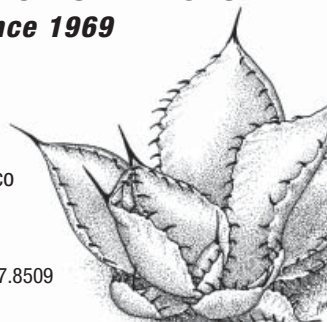
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Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. The Society has also produced a New Mexico wildflower poster by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair—check out <http://www.npsnm.org/posters/>



Wildflower poster: 22"×34", \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)
Cactus poster: 18"×24", \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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NPSNM Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

E-Mail/Fax _____

*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter:
 (Please check only one)*

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque | <input type="checkbox"/> Otero (Alamogordo) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso, TX | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gila (Silver City) | <input type="checkbox"/> Taos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Las Cruces | <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I am interested in forming a new chapter in:</i> | |

Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of the Society	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	125
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	250
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income, Teachers, Students, and Seniors (65+)	15

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Remember that 25% of contributions are returned annually to the individual chapters!



Make your check payable to
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
and send to
Membership Secretary
PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176



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of the

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OF NEW MEXICO

is available online.

Download PDFs of this and
recently archived issues
at the NPSNM website:

www.npsnm.org

New Mexico Close-Up



Clockwise from top left: Still dirty after emerging from the ground, this tiny sweat bee (*Lasioglossum* sp.) gets a first meal from a three-leaf sumac flower cluster; the mining bee *Andrena prunorum* has a coat of coppery hair, but holds its wings erect like a wasp; a brassy *Lasioglossum semicaeruleum* is also a fan of sumac.

Photos: Robert Sivinski

See article on page 8!

