

# TAOS CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

## 2014 Annual Report

### OFFICERS:

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### STANDING COMMITTEES:

**Membership:** Sallie Hoops  
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### AD HOC COMMITTEES:

**Resources:** Marianne Furedi (co-chair Martha Brown)  
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**Education:** Claudia Bianca

**Field Botany:** John Ubelaker  
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and David Witt  
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**Landscaping:** Richard Rubin  
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### \*\*\*\*\* NPSNM-Taos 2014 OVERVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

1. Demonstration Gardens:
  - a. In front of Brodsky's bookstore: Cleaned up and irrigation redone by Richard Rubin with help from a graduate of the Master Gardener program.
  - b. Gardens at Millicent Rogers Museum were cleaned up in the spring, old plantings were inventoried, and new wildflowers planted (some purchased, others from our greenhouse). A map will be created for both gardens and signage added in 2015 to create an educational walkabout for visitors.
2. Greenhouse renovation: We are the only chapter that propagates and sells native plants to the community. However, our greenhouse roof was in a badly disintegrating state at the end of the 2013 growing season and the lack of controllable ventilation was causing a problem for hardening off the seedlings. President Bianca applied for a donation from NPSNM for \$1000 to cover the costs of a new roof. This was approved at the Feb. 2014 NPSNM board meeting. A report (with pictures) on the installation of the roof was published in the Jan-Mar 2015 NPSNM newsletter.
3. On behalf of the chapter, President Bianca applied for and received an \$850 grant from Los Jardineros, the Garden Club of Taos, to cover the cost of permanent signage in the demonstration gardens in 2015.
4. Seeds from 43 different species of native plants were sown, but germination was poor. Approximately 360 seeds total germinated. Sale of wildflowers netted \$450. Plants were sold directly to members on Aug. 1 and at the Taos Farmers' Market Aug. 23.
5. Monthly articles appeared in the *Taos News*, written by Bev Haldiman. Links to .pdf files of these will soon be found on the Taos chapter page of the NPSNM website.
6. Facebook Page is used for posting information and pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Native-Plant-Society-New-Mexico-Taos-Chapter/453033774707876?ref=bookmarks>
7. We have had 5 talks videotaped by videographer from UNM-Taos. These are on the UNM-YouTube channel. Links can be found below after the talk descriptions.
8. A Herbarium (for the serious botanists and students) is currently housed at the County Agricultural Extension Office. Discussions will be held in 2015 as to the future of this herbarium.
9. Annual end-of-year social included a raffle and silent auction of items (donated by member artists) that netted \$172.

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### \*\*\* 2014 Meetings \*\*\*

**TALKS** are free and open to the public and are held in the (*El Taoseno room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*) from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, on the third Wednesday of March, April, May, & September, October, November.

**MARCH 19, Wednesday – Free Public Talk** “Forest Health, Native Plants and New Mexico’s Water” **Mark Schuetz**, owner of *Watershed Dynamics*. **NOTE: view the video:** <http://youtu.be/oj25oEXHje8>.

**APRIL 16, Wednesday – Free Public Talk** “Identifying and Attracting Beneficial Insects to Your Garden” **Linda Wiener**, “The Bug Lady.” **NOTE: view the video:** <http://youtu.be/9ihxng6SrRE>.

**MAY 21, Wednesday – Free Public Talk** “Out of the Ashes: The Story of Recovery of the Landscape after Wildfire.” **Teralene (Terry) Foxx**, Storyteller and retired Ecologist for the Los Alamos National Labs, entitled **NOTE: view the video:** <http://youtu.be/PDUKq4R007c>.

**SEPTEMBER 17, Wednesday – “Wildflower Seeds of History” DVD Documentary** Join us for a trip through the legends, facts, and ecological impact behind wildflowers.

**OCTOBER 15, Wednesday – Free Public Talk** . “Endangered Plants in New Mexico.” **Daniela Roth**, Program Coordinator for New Mexico State Forestry. **NOTE: view the video** <http://youtu.be/QTrKn0jQjXI>.

**NOVEMBER 19, Wednesday – Annual Social & Election of 2015 Officers for MEMBERS ONLY.** Celebrate the season, socialize, and elect officers for the following year. Our botanist, Dr. John Ubelaker will briefly talk about the amazing connection between Pinyon Trees and Pinyon Jays. Witness his rendition of a male Pinyon Jay’s mating dance! **NOTE: view the video of Dr. Ubelaker’s talk/demonstration:** <http://youtu.be/oXQkjeIvkbc>.

### \*\*\* 2014 Field trips/workshops/special events \*\*\*

**FIELD TRIPS/HIKES/SPECIAL EVENTS** are free and usually open to the public

**MAY 17, Saturday – ALL DAY Field Trip for MEMBERS.** Native plant buying trip to Santa Fe and lunch at the Plants of the Southwest Café.

**JUNE 28, Saturday – Public ALL DAY Field Trip/Reservation Required** Learn about alpine plants on a Wheeler Peak hike with **David Witt**. The Mt. Wheeler plant identification hike will begin promptly at 8:15 AM from the Williams Lake Hikers Parking lot and continue to the Wheeler ascent trail near the lake.

**JULY 12, Saturday – Public ALL DAY Field Trip** Join us for a hike to Pederal with our botanist, **Dr. John Ubelaker**. The hike will involve evaluation of the desert plants in the upper Sonoran zone dominated by juniper and pinyon pine, cactus and yucca. The hike will allow evaluation of plants in a unique geological setting essentially covering the Mesozoic time period. Following the hike we will drive to Ghost Ranch to tour the museum and eat lunch before returning to Taos.

**JULY 24, Thursday – Gardens in Progress Tour for MEMBERS ONLY.** Enjoy our yearly ‘Gardens in Progress’ tour. Members will tour the gardens of NPSNM homes to learn how easy it is to integrate beautiful, low maintenance native plants into the landscape. At the end of the tour, members bring their favorite potluck dish and lunch together at the last garden.

**AUGUST 1, Friday – Native Plant Sale for MEMBERS ONLY** – at our greenhouse.

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**AUGUST 16, Saturday – Free Public ALL DAY Field Trip** Join us for a free ALL DAY Field Trip to Williams Lake with **David Witt** and **Dr. John Ubelaker**. Meet at 8 AM at the KTAO parking lot to carpool to the hikers' parking lot at the Williams Lake trailhead. We will walk two miles to Williams Lake and focus on sub-alpine and alpine plants. **EXTRA:** David prepared two (2) plant lists for the Taos Ski Valley trails; the first is sorted by Family Name (URL: <http://www.npsnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/TSV-Plants-by-Family.xls>) and the second is sorted by Common Name (URL: <http://www.npsnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/TSV-Plants-by-Common-Name.xls>).

**SEPTEMBER 12, Friday – Free Public Information Table/Plant Sale at Cid's.**

**SEPTEMBER 13, Saturday – Free Public HALF DAY Field Trip** Join us for a half-day with **Dr. John Ubelaker** in Italianos Canyon. Learn about Canadian Zone plants.

**SEPTEMBER 20, Saturday – For Fee ALL DAY Field Trip for MEMBERS/Pre-Registration Required.** 10AM to Noon guided tour/nature walk led by botanist **Bob Sivinski** at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve (LCWP). LCWP is a 35-acre nature preserve located south of Santa Fe adjacent to El Rancho de las Golondrinas in La Cienega. This rare natural cienega, or “marsh” in Spanish, hosts a bountiful diversity of plants and wildlife. The Preserve contains three distinct plant communities or zones: riparian/wetland, transitional, and dry uplands.

**SEPTEMBER 27, Saturday – Free Public Workshop/Pre-Registration Required.** 9 AM to Noon at the Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center. Using samples of trees and shrubs from our area, Dr. John Ubelaker will demonstrate how to use Jack Carter's book, “Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico” to identify the plants.

**OCTOBER 11, Saturday – Free Public ALL DAY Field Trip.** Join us for a hike to Valle Vidal with **Bonnie Woods** of the US Forest Service. Meet at 8 AM in the KTAO parking lot for carpooling to meet Bonnie at Valle Vidal to view transition and fire recovery zones. She will also share information about interesting projects on riparian restoration by managing elk migrations and point out local flora.

- Submitted by Claudia Bianca, President