

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
TAOS CHAPTER
2015 Annual Report

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STANDING COMMITTEES:

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*** 2015 Programs ***

TALKS are open to the public and are held in the board room of the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative on Cruz Alta Rd from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, on the third Wednesday of March, April, May, & September, October, November. Five talks were videographed and the links to them are included. Our Taos Chapter Facebook Page, (<http://tinyurl.com/omnfaq8g>) is used for posting information and photographs.

MARCH 19: "Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts of the Taos Ski Area" by Russ Kleinman, Adjunct Professor of Plant Taxonomy at Western NM University, Silver City, NM, and Kelly Allred, Professor Emeritus, NMSU, Las Cruces. Video: <http://taos22.com/videos/native-plant-society-taos-chapter-presents-russ-kleinman/>.

APRIL 16: "Volunteering with Invasives at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge" by Joe Zebrowski, past president of the Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. Video: <http://taos22.com/videos/volunteering-with-invasives-at-rio-mora-national-wildlife-refuge-by-joe-zebrowski/>.

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MAY 20: “Wild Medicinal Plants of Northern New Mexico” by Rob Hawley, medical herbalist and owner of Taos Herb. Video: <http://taos22.com/videos/wild-medicinal-plants-of-northern-new-mexico-by-rob-hawley/>

SEPTEMBER 16: “Flowers of San Pedro Parks Wilderness: The place the warming forgot” by Charles “Chick” Keller of Los Alamos. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWg1pOp8i-M&feature=youtu.be>

OCTOBER 15: “Native Plants are the Bees’ Knees” by Zach & Jasmine Cecelic of Wildhood Farms in Truchas. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyQYa5RkVXQ&feature=youtu.be>

NOVEMBER 19: Larry Littlefield of Albuquerque introduced about his book, “Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico.” The presentation was followed by election of officers for 2016, a social pot-luck, and a silent auction to end our year which raised over \$238.

*** 2015 Field Trips/Hikes/Activities ***

April 10: Five officers/members hosted a NPSNM information table at an all-day Agricultural Resources Fair hosted by the Taos County Agriculture Center/NMSU extension office. We sold a few books, gave several people a tour of our greenhouse next door to the expo center, signed up one new member, and added several names to our email list.

April 25 Field Trip for members: Native plant buying trip to two Santa Fe nurseries and lunch.

May 16 SMU Taos, Ft. Burgwin (half day): Dr. John Ubelaker led an walk around the campus with about 6 attendees, discussing the ecological history of the area and the dominant and common plants of the Transition zone.

Jun 20 Pedernal & Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu (full day): About a dozen persons joined Dr. Ubelaker for a hike in the upper Sonoran zone. The hike focused on evaluation of the desert plants of this zone characterized by cactus, yucca, juniper and piñon pine, cactus, and yucca in a unique geological setting covering the Mesozoic time period. Following the hike we visited Ghost Ranch to tour the museum.

July 8: Sale of our native plant seedlings for members only at our greenhouse.

July 11 Italianos Trail Hike (half day): Dr. Ubelaker led the hike with about 8 attendees to learn about plants of the Canadian Zone, hiking to an aspen grove to review the role of aspen in the spruce and fir forest.

July 14 Gardens in Progress Tour for members only. About 12 members toured the gardens of three NPSNM homeowners to learn how easy it is to integrate beautiful, low maintenance native plants into the diverse ecosystems of Taos. At the end of the tour, we shared a potluck lunch together at the last home.

Aug. 8 Upper Taos Ski Valley (full day) – Search for a Rare Wildflower. Daniela Roth, John Ubelaker, and David Witt led a group of 10 to Frazer Hill, seeking and successfully locating a mustard species, *Draba henrici*, recently described from this area.

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Aug. 15 (New Mexico Native Plant Day): Sale of our native plant seedlings to the public at Taos Farmers' Market.

Aug. 22 Tres Piedras (all day): Aldo Leopold House, & Stewart Meadow with Bonnie Woods, Biologist with the USFS, organized by Richard Rubin. A group of about 25 visited the Aldo Leopold house, learned its history from USFS ranger Bonnie Woods, and looked at plans for a native plant garden. After lunch at the Chili Line café we traveled north to Stewart Meadow, a big grazing enclosure on the Rio San Antonio, to view great wildlife, plant habitats with wildflowers, beaver ponds, and willow stands.

Sept. 19: Four members attended a Seed Collection Workshop at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge conducted by Melanie Gisler, Southwest Program Director for the Institute for Applied Ecology, jointly organized by the Denver Zoo, the Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*** NPSNM-Taos Projects 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. The front and courtyard 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 is in progress for both gardens and permanent plant identification signage was ordered in December. These signs will be installed in spring 2016. The cost of the signage (\$823) was covered by a grant received from Los Jardineros, the Garden Club of Taos.

2. **Taos Greenhouse – seedling project.** Seeds from 38 species of native plants were sown, but germination was poor, likely due to unusual cold during April & early May. There was a great loss in plants due to extreme heat in greenhouse post-transplanting in May & June. Plants were sold directly to members on July 8 and to the public at the Taos Farmers' Market Aug. 23. Sale of wildflowers netted \$394, a disappointingly lower income from previous years. We have asked the country to provide electricity for heating pads and cooling fans but, in spite of initial encouragement, have received no response.
3. "The Wonderful World of Native Plants," a **monthly column** written by Bev Haldiman (publicity chair) appears in the House & Garden section of the Taos News
4. **A Herbarium** established about 10 years ago by NPS members and colleagues (for the serious botanists and students) is currently housed at the County Agricultural Extension Office. The board decided this year to transfer it to the SMU-Fort Burgwin Campus south of Taos where it will have a greater likelihood of being used by students and faculty. This relocation will take place in early 2016 facilitated by Dr. John Ubelaker, retired SMU professor.

- Submitted by Jan Martenson, President