

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center  
Pueblo House Living Landscape



Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund

Grant Report

Submitted by: Felipe Estudillo Colón – Outreach Education Coordinator  
Date: March 23, 2012

## 2012 Pueblo House Living Landscape Plant Selection Native Plant Society of New Mexico Grant

### Report Narrative:

The selection of plants for acquisition and planting in the Pueblo House Living Landscape was a careful and deliberate process that involved consultation with many parties including Pueblo agriculturalists, horticulturalists, historians, cultural advisors and keepers of traditional knowledge. In the spring of 2011 the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) began convening Pueblo individuals to discuss what plants should and could be used to educate both the Public audience and the Pueblo people. These initial meetings revealed the immensity of this project which would require not only a depth of discussion into Pueblo history and belief but also a need for sensitivity in selecting plants.

The essential predicament was that many of the plants that were identified for inclusion were selected based on their significance to Pueblo cosmological and religious traditions. However, the significance of these plants to Pueblo traditions also made them sacred and therefore commonly protected from public discussion. With clearly educational intentions for the landscape, the IPCC staff would need to understand what if anything could be taught about them before the plants may be selected and purchased.

Working with our consultants and partners through the summer and fall of 2011, we successfully selected 8 plants which were of crucial significance to the Pueblos and yet could be discussed and shared with the Public. The 8 selected plants included: Apache Plume, Yucca Baccata, Bear Grass, Wolf Berry, Prickly Pear Cacti, Three-Leaf Sumac, Willow Coyote and Salt Bush. These 8 plants are highly significant to the Pueblo traditions but are also relatable for public education. These plants were additionally selected because of their significance to the natural, cosmological and artistic lifeway of the Pueblos and their ability to assist our education team in demonstrating the connection between the plants, animals and people of the Pueblo world. These plants also provide an educational platform from which Pueblo people visiting the landscape could teach their own children and families about the sacred aspects of the plants.

By the early winter, when these plants had been selected and ratified by our consultants; the Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery, a Pueblo owned and run nursery from which we would acquire the plants, was in the process of moving and neither had the plants in stock, nor could they at that time provide us an invoice for the potential cost and delivery time of these plants. Having now settled in their new location at the end of February 2012, the Santa Ana Nursery has provided us a invoice of the requests plants and the

Santa Ana Nursery has provided us a invoice of the requests plants and the below list includes the descriptions and meaning of the plants that was developed through our year long consultation with Pueblo representatives.

#### 5- 5g -Apache Plume

The Apache Plume is an indigenous plant significant to the Pueblo's for its availability to attract butterflies. Butterflies are natural and cosmological symbols of water, life, strength and longevity for their ability to travel great distances and carry pollen. Pollen is utilized in Pueblo religious traditions to carry prayers, and the butterflies that carry the pollen also carry with them prayers which they spread through the land and to the people. The butterfly is celebrated by the Pueblos through the Butterfly dance, performed among the Tewa Pueblos in the Santa Fe and Espanola valleys. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the attracting of butterflies and the significance of butterflies to the beliefs and lifeway of the Pueblo people. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant as a key example of the way that the natural world and cosmological beliefs of the Pueblo people are unified in the Pueblo understanding of the world.

#### 5- 5g -Yucca Baccata

The Yucca Baccata is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in the arts, food ways and in community life. Leafs of the Yucca Baccata have been used by the Pueblo artists for millennia. The stiff spinney leaves are spliced and softened allowing the tuberous fibers within the leaf to create a brush which is them particularly useful for painting pottery. The seed pods of the Yucca Baccata are a delicacy that has been enjoyed as a dessert by Pueblo people for thousands of years. Pueblo youth who are sent to collect the pods in the fall during which time they may also collect new leafs for making brushes. The root of the Yucca Baccata is traditionally used as soap by the Pueblo people. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the arts, the food ways and the community life of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and will feature how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our art programs will also benefit from the use of the Yucca Baccata leafs which will allow our artists and instructors to show the way that pottery is traditionally painted.

#### 5- 5g- Bear Grass

The Bear Grass is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in community life, food and the arts. A hearty plant with tough fibrous leafs; Bear Grass is traditionally used in Pueblo weaving, particularly

in the creation of ropes, cords and baskets. The Bear Grass roots are tender and starchy and are traditionally eaten by the Pueblos either roasted or as rue for thickening soups. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the arts, the food ways and the community life of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our art programs will also benefit from the use of the bear grass by extending the materials currently used weaving and cooking classes and providing visitors a taste of traditional Pueblo cooking.

#### 10- 5g- Wolf Berry

The Wolf Berry is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness and value in cosmology and food-ways. Wolf Berries and their thick coat of tiny blossoms are a major food source for butterflies and also for hummingbirds which are a symbol of strength to Pueblo people. The hummingbird is resilient and defensive of their homes and territory. The Hummingbird is also covered in feathers which are used in traditional dance and ceremonial regalia. Wolf berries are a major food source for many types of birds and are also a traditional food source for the Pueblos who eat the berries raw, dried or are baked in Pueblo pies. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the beliefs and food ways of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our food programs will also benefit from the use of the Wolf Berry by allowing us to harvest the berries for baking demonstrations, providing our public the ability to taste traditional Pueblo pies filled with wild berries eaten by Pueblos for centuries.

#### 5- 5g - Prickly Pear Cactus

The Prickly Pear Cactus is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in food ways, medical healing and the arts. The Prickly Pear Cactus is a popular food with many Southwest tribes, including the Pueblos who consider the sweet fruit a delicacy eaten as candies and syrup. The ripe Prickly Pear also is utilized to create a balm that soothes burns and helps promote healing. The Prickly Pear Cactus is also traditionally used by the Pueblo people as a dye, particularly for the dying of cotton and wool that is used to make traditional regalia. The bright pink-red color of the Prickly Pear creates one of the 4 central colors of traditional Pueblo regalia and has been used for this purpose for millennia. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the food ways and artistic traditions of the Pueblos. Education programs

surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our food programs will benefit from the use Prickly Pear Cactus by allowing us to harvest the fruit for cooking demonstrations. Our art programs will benefit from the Prickly Pear Cactus by having a direct source for traditional dye that students of our weaving classes can use.

#### 10- 5g -Three-Leaf Sumac

The Three-Leaf Sumac is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in food ways and medical healing. Berries of the Three-Leaf Sumac are traditionally popular in Pueblos for making a drink which is high in vitamin c and lemon flavored. It is a traditional vitamin supplement for the diet of the Pueblos and is used medically to replenish the health of people recovering from illness. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the food ways and medial practices of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our food programs will benefit from the use Three-Leaf Sumac by allowing us to harvest the berries for cooking demonstrations.

#### 5 - 5g - Willow Coyote

The Willow Coyote is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in the arts. The Willow Coyote is traditionally used by the Pueblo people as a material for the creation of baskets. The Willow Coyote is among the first plants known to have been used by the Pueblo ancestors nearly 10,000 years ago. In these early periods of Pueblo ancestral inhabitation of New Mexico, baskets, rather than pottery, were used for storage and cooking. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the artistic traditions of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our art programs will benefit from the use of Willow Coyote for the creation of basket by traditional artisans.

#### 5- 5g - Salt Bush

The Salt Bush is an indigenous plant that is regarded by the Pueblos for its usefulness in art, hunting and food ways. The Salt Bush seeds are traditionally dried and cooked as a snack particularly good for long hunting trips. A popular food for game, Salt Bush attracts many of the animals that the Pueblos hunt. The Salt Bush is also traditionally used by the Pueblo

people as a yellow dye, particularly for the dying of cotton and wool that is used to make traditional regalia. The inclusion of this plant in the Pueblo House Living Landscape will allow the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to teach the Pueblos and the public about the significance of this plant to the food ways and artistic traditions of the Pueblos. Education programs surrounding the Pueblo House Living Landscape will feature discussion and education about this plant and how this plant was and continues to be used by the Pueblo people. Our food programs will benefit from the use of salt Bush by allowing us to harvest the seeds for cooking demonstrations. Our art programs will benefit from the Salt Bush by having a direct source for traditional dye that students of our weaving classes can use.

## Plant Invoice:

# SANTA ANA NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

2 Dove Road  
Bernalillo, NM 87004  
Phone (505)867-3301  
FAX (505)867-3395

### Quotation

SOLD TO Indian Pueblo Cultural center.

SHIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TO \_\_\_\_\_[illegible]

To order from this quote, return one copy with your order. If you prefer to order by phone, please inform the salesman of this quote.

THIS IS A QUOTATION ONLY

**This quotation is valid for 30 days. Subject to supply at time of order.**

ORDERED BY \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ THANK YOU \_\_\_\_\_

Check Request:



Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Inc./  
Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc.  
2401 12th Street NW | Albuquerque, NM 87104

NAME Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery

Address: 2 Dove Rd.

City, St., Zip: Bernalillo, NM 87004

Tel. 505.867.3301

| Account Code   | Description/ Details  | Invoice No. | Amount   |
|--|---|-------------|----------|
|  | The purchase of plants that will become the Pueblo House Living Landscape - Please see attached quotation |             | \$750.00 |
| Notes: This purchase is billed to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) Grant |   | Tax         |          |
|  |   | Total       | \$750.00 |

- ☒ Mail to the above address  
☐ Return check back to Gift Shop Manager  
☐ Return check back to Requestor

Requested by:

Felipe J. Edwards 1/1/12 9/28/12 2/20/2012

Date: 2/20/2012

Approved by:

Barbara Tracy

Date: 2/29/12

Check No.

17589

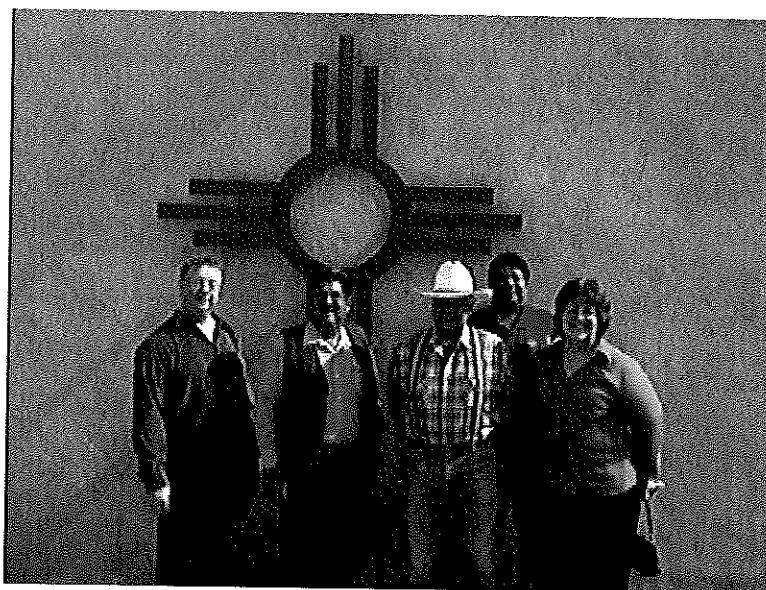
Date: 3-1-12

(For Check Stamp Use only: E. J. Jardi)



**Indian Pueblo Cultural Center  
Native Plant Society of New Mexico**

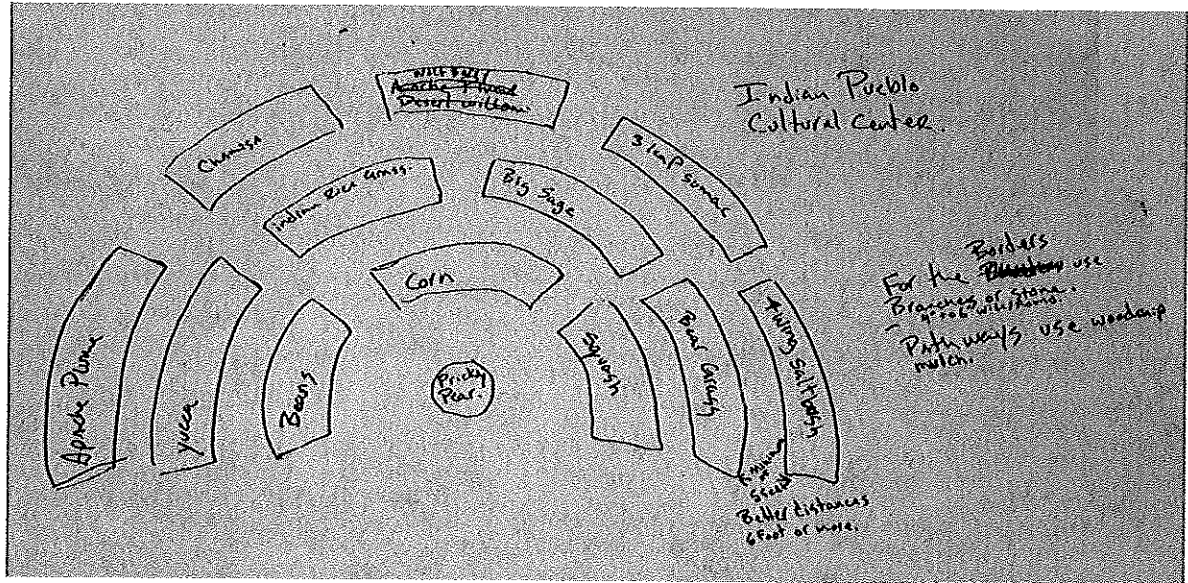
Photos of landscape planning and activities to be expanded by landscape



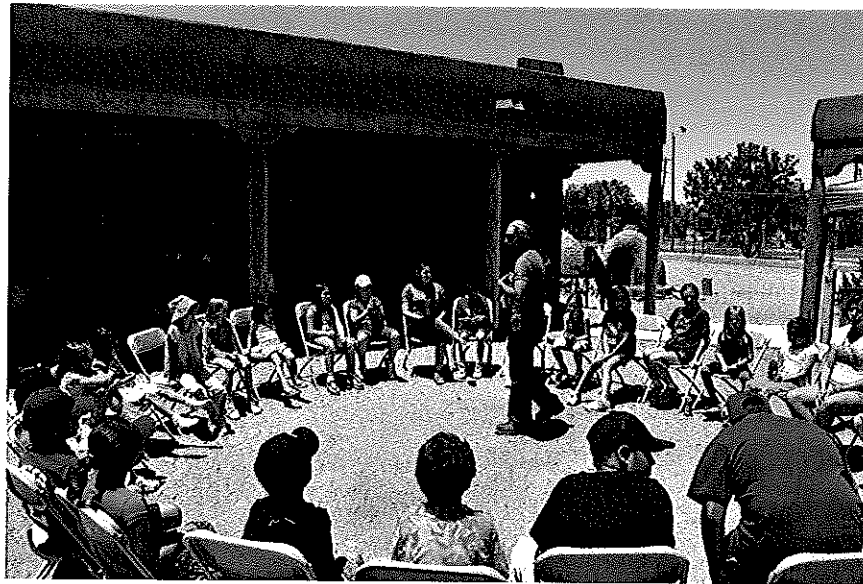
Planning meeting at Zia Pueblo



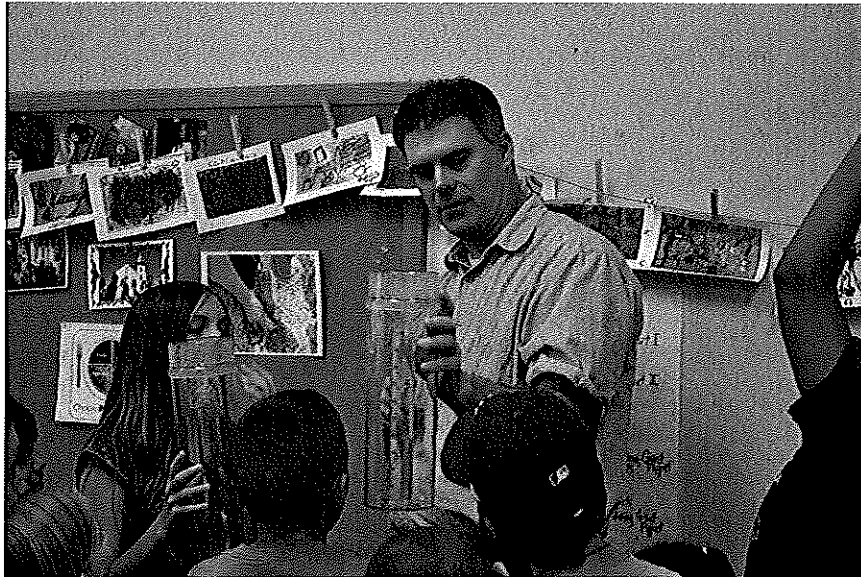
Exploring the fields and plants at Zia Pueblo



Early planning sketches for landscape and garden



Talking with students about Pueblo culture and food ways



Environmental science and hydrology lessons with students



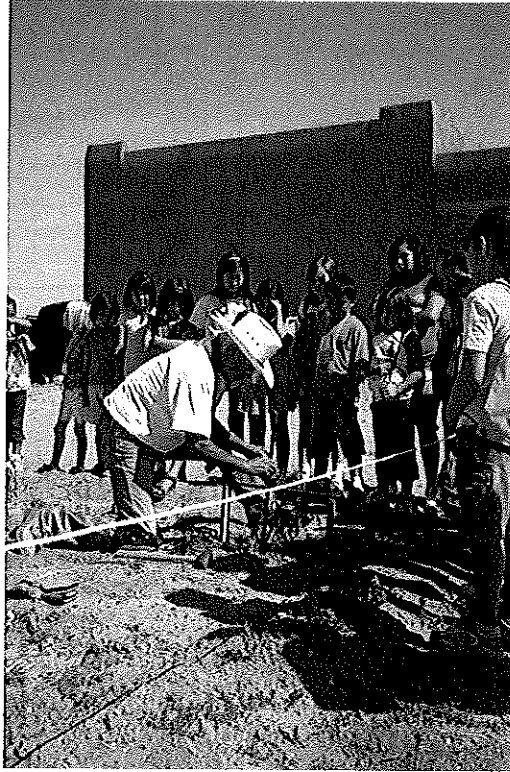
Environmental science and hydrology lessons with students



Planting with youth



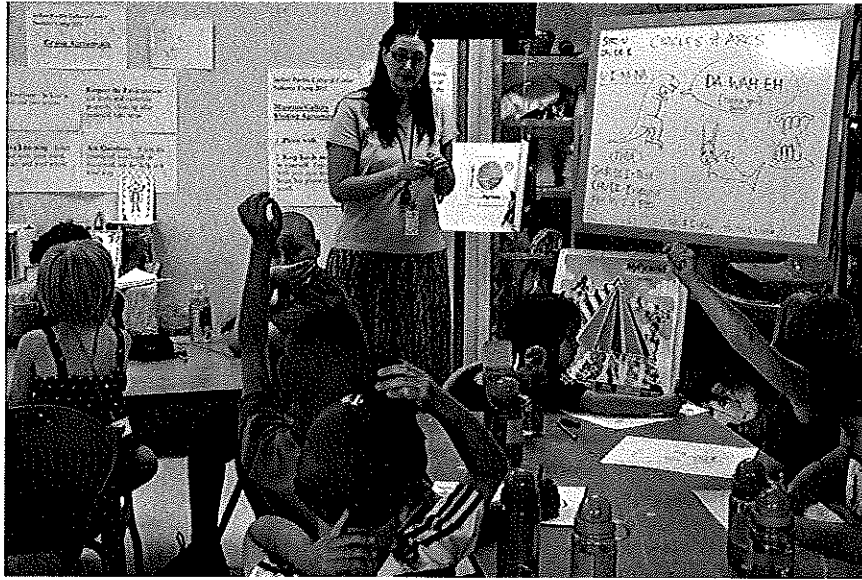
Working in the raised gardens



Gardening with Governor Lucero of Zia Pueblo



Teaching from the corn with Governor Lucero Zia Pueblo



Nutrition lessons



Cooking classes with traditional pueblo chefs





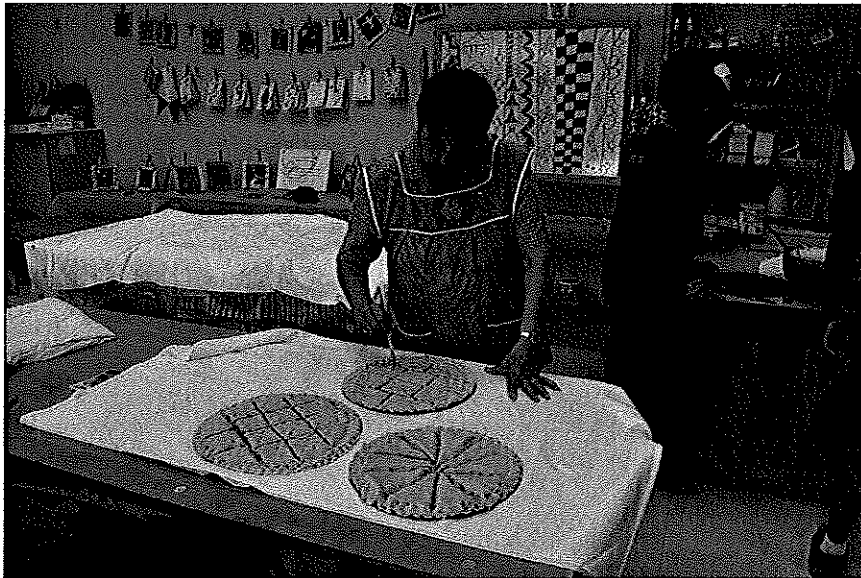
Harvesting corn with urban youth



Preparing corn for feast



Baking corn for feasting



Baking classes





Feast day celebrations



Food-ways based exhibitions