

2016 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Revised June 15, 2016

Thursday, September 22

2:00 – 5:00 pm	NPSNM BOARD MEETING
3:00 – 5:30 pm	REGISTRATION
6:30 – 8:00 pm	Reception at Joan Woodward’s home, for Board and steering committee

Friday, September 23

7:30 am – 5:00 pm	REGISTRATION
7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Book Sale and Silent Auction
9:00 am – 9:15 am	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS—Carolyn Gressitt, Las Cruces Chapter president
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Film and panel: “ On the Long Road to the Creation of the National Monument ”: State Senator Jeff Steinborn; Bill Childress, District Head of BLM; Ben Gabriel, Executive Director of Friends of OM-DPNM; Patrick Alexander, Botanist for BLM; Greg Magee, author & environmentalist; Moderator Carrie Hamblen, Executive Director, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce.
10:30 am – 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Patrick Alexander: Ferns of the Organ Mountains
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	LUNCH (provided on site)
12:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Tortugas Mt. hike: Although it is just outside the new National Monument, Tortugas Mountain is special in many ways—including the fact that it is so close to Farm & Ranch, so we can get there quickly. You may sign up for one of the following, depending on your botanical or other interests (. A. Ariana Fierro, Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe: Native plant uses & sacred aspects of Tortugas (<i>Low/mid-elevation, west slope; easy</i>) B. Lisa Mandelkern: Cactus-lovers (<i>Mid-mountain, west slope; easy-medium</i>) C. Patrick Alexander: Stop at every plant (<i>Mid mountain; medium-difficult</i>) D. Jennifer Montoya: Views & overviews (<i>east slope/easy; good views of Organ Mts</i>) E. Donovan Bailey: Plant patterns/diversity (<i>walk around base from east side/easy-medium</i>) F. John Freyermuth: The western bajada (<i>west slope/easy</i>) G. Alternative activity: Tour of Farm & Ranch Museum (\$2 per person)
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Donovan Bailey: What did we see on Tortugas Mt?
4:10 pm – 4:45 pm	Marcy Scott: Hummingbirds as Pollinators
6:30 pm	RECEPTION, Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

Saturday, September 24

7:30 am – 3:15 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction

7:30 am – 12:00 pm **FIELD TRIPS**

(Registration on a first-come, first-served basis)

Be sure to bring sunscreen, hat, hiking shoes, water, and a long-sleeved shirt to protect arms.

Please also bring your high clearance vehicle, if possible—thank you!

Plant lists will be available for most hikes.

1. **Mesilla Bosque State Park *Easy***: Situated between the Rio Grande and a large desert mesa, it encompasses 7 different plant communities, from marshlands to desert areas. The trails are established and easy to walk. A highlight is its native plant garden. **Limit 15**
2. **Leasburg Dam State Park & riparian projects along the Rio Grande. *Easy***: This state park has seen recent efforts to restore native plants. However, it has been impacted by the drought. A park ranger will talk on the restoration project, as will other local experts. **Limit 15**
3. **Peña Blanca: *Easy/medium***: This area is at the southern end of the Organ Mts. The hike is about a mile round trip and mostly level. **Limit 15**
4. **Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park *Easy/Medium***: The walk is close to the Doña Ana Mts. and about a 3-mile roundtrip. **Limit 15.**
5. North **Sierra Vista Trail *Medium***: This is a newer section of this trail that goes from Dripping Springs Road over to Soledad Canyon Road **Limit 15.**
6. **Dripping Springs Natural Area *Medium***: The mini-Yosemite of New Mexico! It is a must-see. **Limit 15**
7. **Bar/Soledad Canyon *Medium***: Another beautiful canyon in the Organs! **Limit 15**
8. **La Cueva *Medium***: Close to the OM-DP Visitor's center. Trail is a little tricky in spots. **Limit 15**
9. **All-day hike** Aguirre Springs NRA, (fee area) on Pine-tree Trail: ***Medium-somewhat difficult***; on the east side of the Organ Mts. Be sure you pick up a box lunch to take along. (*Just be aware that you will likely miss most of the afternoon talks/workshops below.*) **Limit 15**

7:30 am – 12:00 pm **WORKSHOPS AND TALKS**; Ellen Young, anchor

10. Lisa Mandelkern – **Basic composition for Wildflower Photographers** 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
11. Lisa Mandelkern – **25 Tips to Get Your Wildflower Photos to the Next Level** 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
12. Joan Woodward – **Beyond Gravel: Landscape Design as if Plants and People Matter** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
13. Rick Rao – **Growing Color**: will showcase dyes made from native plants 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **LUNCH** on your own

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Russ Kleinman—**Bryophytes of New Mexico**

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm Patrick Alexander—**How Do We Understand Plant Communities?**

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Break and **Final bidding on silent auction**

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm Lisa Mandelkern—**Ye Pretty Daughters of the Earth and Sun: A Brief Introduction to Mexican Gold Poppies**

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm 3 Member Presentations

6:30 pm

BANQUET at the Farm and Ranch Museum;

Keynote Speaker: Lisa Mandelkern: **Organisms –**

A Photographic Journey in Southern New Mexico"

Sunday, September 25

7:30 am – FIELD TRIPS

14. **Valles Canyon Easy/Medium** Valles is nestled in the Sierra de las Uvas, and connects with the upper end of Broad Canyon. It is well worth visiting, not just for the flora, but also for the scenic cliffs of the box and the huge, water-carved rocks in upper Broad Canyon. 5.5-miles **Limit 15**
15. **Aden Crater Medium** This area of lava flows and volcanoes west of the Mesilla Valley is a fabulous place to view the whole Desert Peaks complex and the Mesilla Valley. This ancient volcano once housed the remains of a giant ground sloth in a fumerole. The sloth's resting place is now the Smithsonian. 2 miles **Limit 15**
16. **Prehistoric Trackways NM, Medium/steep and rocky areas** Our second-newest National Monument offers the chance to see the famous Permian trackways discovered close to Las Cruces. 3 miles [*We highly recommend* a prior visit to the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science, open Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 4:30. There is *no* visitor's center at the park; the museum trackways exhibit doubles as a visitor's center.] **Limit 15**
17. **Picacho Peak Easy** This is a BLM recreation area very close to Las Cruces. We will not climb the peak, but rather walk in the arroyo at the base, since the plant species are more varied there. 3 miles. **Limit 15**
18. **Broad Canyon Medium/strenuous** This is a challenging hike, but the striking cliffs and water-sculpted bedrock are well worth seeing. 6 miles **Limit 15**
19. **Red House Mountain Medium** This beautiful canyon is very close to I-25, for those of you heading north. It can have a great variety of plants, some that we do not frequently see. **Limit 15**