



NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2012 VOL. XXXVII No. 4



A great time was had by all on the field trip to White Sands Missile Range during NPSNM's annual meeting. Shown here are leader Dave Anderson (WSMR land manager) and participants Tom Antonio, Chuck Brooks, Nancy Brooks, Carianne Campbell, Joshua Campbell, Deidre Conocchioli, Donna Gumm, Charles Gilbert, Debbie Gilbert, Henry Grover, Mimi Hubby, Russ Kleinman, Lisa Mandelkern, Pam McBride, Jerry Melaragno, Tim Mills, Roger Parker, Kathleen Rhoad, Gary Runyan, Helena Van Heiningen, Renée West, Steve West, John White, Owen Williams, and Sheila Williams.

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From the President

by Renée West

It was a busy August, and now we're at equinox and the end of summer—headed toward the coolest time of the year. It's always good to get a change of seasons, especially in the southern part of the state, where we're still looking forward to the end of triple-digit temperatures. Chapter field trips are the order of the day in the fall. Thankfully, after last year's numerous disastrous wildfires and severe drought, things have eased up a bit (or moved north) and we can all get out and enjoy the fall flowers and other gorgeous colors.

We had a great August visit with the Otero Chapter at the annual meeting in Alamogordo, nestled between the white sands of the Tularosa Basin and the imposing Sacramento Mountains. Helgi and the chapter did a marvelous job putting together an array of field trips, workshops, and talks. A rousing banquet address was delivered by Dave Anderson of White Sands Missile Range. The sessions featured delicious snacks (some made with native plants) and an adorable mug that looks like a terracotta plant pot with the NPSNM logo and a handle. I now use my mug every day for my coffee and iced tea.

At the state meeting, we also installed the newly elected Society officers. Besides myself, the Board includes Vice President Barbara Fix, Membership Director Lolly Jones, Recording Secretary Pam McBride, and Treasurer John White. I'm happy to share duties with these four talented and dedicated people. We all stand ready to serve you for the next two years; our contact information is in every newsletter (page 4) and on the website.



The Albuquerque Chapter is already working hard on putting together the next state meeting, and I'm sure we can look forward to another fine meeting in August 2013.

August 18 was declared Native Plant Day by the governor (see p. 12), and chapters celebrated with a variety of activities.

Sadly, we lost Andy Wasowski of Taos this summer (see p. 6). Andy and Sally were the founders of the Taos Chapter and have been eloquent spokesmen for native plants through their many books, photographs, articles, and presentations. Andy was also the Society's newsletter editor for years, and did a great job at that, too.

I'll never forget when Andy came to Carlsbad some years ago on his speaking tour after publication of *The Landscaping Revolution: Garden With Mother Nature, Not Against Her*. His presentation was engaging and hilarious, as you would guess from a sample of the book's chapter titles: "Homogenize Milk, Not Landscapes," "Your Lawn Has a Drinking Problem," and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Creeper?" It was a very effective way to reach out to all kinds of people on the importance and ease of using native plants in landscaping. Andy was a treasure, and we will miss him.

Our new website has been in operation for several weeks now and it's looking good. Cindy Roper is doing a great job of keeping everything up to date. If you haven't checked it out, you should: www.npsnm.org. ❖



Meet the NPSNM Board. From left to right: Recording Secretary Pam McBride, Membership Director Lolly Jones, Treasurer John White, President Renée West, and Vice President Barbara Fix.

Some Items of Interest . . .

Amazon Connection

Are you one of the millions of Americans that orders anything from books to shoes to pet supplies to toasters from Amazon.com? If so, please consider accessing Amazon through the NPSNM website. Any of your purchases will help support our mission, and cost you nothing extra.

You can find the link in the left-hand navigation bar, right underneath our Facebook link. ~Cindy Roper

INPGA Connection

The NPSNM Board received a flyer from the Intermountain Native Plant Growers Association (INPGA) and wanted to share some of this information with our members. The INPGA's role has traditionally been to "provide seed, tags, and plant descriptions to anyone interested in selling or buying native plants." While the goal was and still is to educate the public about native plants and to promote the commercial availability of native plant products, in these challenging economic times the Association wants to help nurseries become more profitable.

One of the programs they have come up with is the "Plant of the Year" promotional campaign. The Association, by coordinating with member nurseries, hopes to highlight three native plants each year (two perennial wildflowers and one woody shrub or tree). Featured plants will be selected by a committee three years prior to the public announcement, giving nurseries time to produce a supply of plants in response to a successful publicity campaign. (So the selection process will begin this year for recognition in 2015.) Edu-

cational material describing uses and management principles of selected plants will also be provided by the INPGA. Members of the selection committee will be appointed by INPGA's president and will consist of a chairman from the organization's board, their executive director, two members of public institutions, and three members from INPGA wholesale and retail nursery companies. Nominations of plant species can be made by any individual member of the INPGA or by an employee of one of its business members.

The Association will also be publishing a bimonthly newsletter (The Grower's Connection Native Plant Newsletter), a publication called *O'Pinyon Native Plant Quarterly*, the INPGA Sponsor's Guide, and the Grower's Guide. In addition, they will be reaching out to universities, extension services, water conservation organizations, botanical gardens, and growers all over the West to encourage the creation of native plant gardens to "showcase our plants for growers, educators, students, and plant enthusiasts."

For more information and to be part of the search for a more enticing name for the "Plant of the Year" program, go to www.utahschoice.org. ~Pam McBride

**If you received this newsletter via email,
and would prefer a hard-copy,
please notify Cindy Roper at
nativeplantsnm@gmail.com.**

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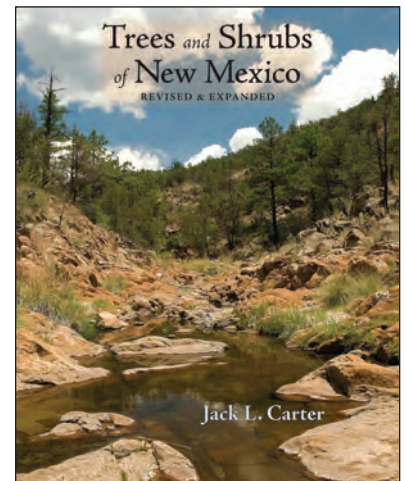
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The Newsletter of the NPSNM

October–December 2012. Vol. 37 No. 4. 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 December 1, 2012. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at sarita@gilanet.com, or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

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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

The Leoncita False-Foxglove (*Agalinis calycina*): An Endangered Species

by Jim McGrath, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Very likely the readers of this essay have never heard of the Leoncita false-foxglove.

That's because it is known from only two locations—one in Texas and one in New Mexico. And New Mexico botanists only became aware that this species is very rare sometime after 2007.

The Leoncita false-foxglove is an annual plant with linear leaves and pink flowers about an inch long that resemble the common garden foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). The species is a member of the broomrape family (Orobanchaceae). The plant occurs only in alkaline wetland habitats derived from gypsum and limestone that are permanently saturated with water. These wetland habitats often stand out as green jewels within the larger dry and drab-colored plant communities of the desert Southwest. Such wetland habitats are often referred to as *ciénegas*. These gypsum and limestone-based *ciénegas* are unique and rare themselves in the desert southwest. They are also home to several federally listed endangered and threatened plant and animal species that are entirely dependent on this very specialized habitat. You can learn more about the Leoncita false-foxglove on the New Mexico Rare Plant website: http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/rarelist_single.php?SpeciesID=228. All of the information about this species portrayed in this essay has been derived from a single document written in 2011 by former New Mexico Division of Forestry botanist Bob Sivinski (*Agalinis calycina* [*Leoncita False-Foxglove*]: A Conservation Status Assessment, 2011 ESA Section 6 Progress Report prepared for the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2).

As mentioned above, the Leoncita false-foxglove is known from only two locations. In New Mexico the plant has been found only in Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The federally threatened Pecos sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*) and Wright's marsh thistle (*Cirsium wrightii*) occur side by side with the Leoncita false-foxglove at Bitter Lake. Populations vary from year to year but have been in the hundreds or thousands. In Texas, the plant has been found at the Diamond Y Spring, now a Nature Conservancy Preserve

about seven miles NNW of Fort Stockton. The preserve is already home to five federally listed plant or animal species. Historic plant collections have been made of the Leoncita false-foxglove at two locations in Coahuila, Mexico. The common thread connecting the four locations is the presence of very large wetland complexes or very large springs. However, the springs in Mexico have been drastically altered by urban and agricultural development. Therefore, the Leoncita false-foxglove is very likely no longer present in at least one of the locations in Mexico.

The Case for Endangered Status

We in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico feel that the Leoncita false-foxglove should be established as an endangered species. Although the species is persisting at two places where protection is already provided, we believe that endangered status is necessary for several reasons:

1. The Preserve Protection Fallacy.

Just because a species is found within a preserve does not mean it is adequately protected. Proper protection within that preserve implies proper management that specifically focuses on needs of the species whose existence is in jeopardy. Proper management may not be consistent over the years. There is also the possibility that some natural or unnatural event may permanently alter the unique characteristics of the habitat required for continued survival of the species.



Leoncita False-Foxglove.

Photo by Bob Sivinski

Groundwater. The most serious threat to the habitats protected by Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Diamond Y Spring Preserve is depletion of the groundwater supply that is the lifeblood of the *ciénegas*. Many springs and *ciénegas* in the Southwest have either dried up or the amount of groundwater feeding them has been drastically reduced from what it once was due to agricultural and urban usage. The original Leon Spring near the Diamond Y Spring ceased to flow around 1958 due to excessive groundwater pumping. A recent proposal was made to pump 47,418 acre-feet of water per year from a nearby West Texas aquifer.

Continued page 14

In Memoriam: Andy Wasowski

by Wynn Anderson, El Paso Chapter

Andy Wasowski died on August 1, 2012, at the home he shared with Sally in Arroyo Seco, outside of Taos. He was 73 years old, having been born in Gdynia, Poland, on June 30, 1939. Two months after his birth, his parents tucked him safely in their arms for a trek across war-torn Europe, dodging bombs and enduring the hardships of wartime chaos. In Genoa, Italy, they embarked by boat for the safety of the U.S.

Andy grew up on the East Coast and began a highly successful thirty-year career in commercial advertising at agencies in Los Angeles, then New York, and finally partnering in a new agency in Dallas. Along the way, and among many noteworthy accomplishments, Andy won the advertising profession's highest award, the Clio.

In 1978 Andy married Sally, the second great love of his life. Sally, a social work professional at the time, was also an enthusiastic protégée of the late, legendary plantsman Benny Simpson at Texas A&M, and with Andy's encouragement she soon developed a successful career as a horticulturist, landscape designer, and author. In 1984, she and coauthor Julie Ryan published *Landscaping with Native Texas Plants*. After assisting them with this publication, Andy took leave from his Dallas agency (and subsequently retired) to join Sally in a new endeavor. Exercising his considerable editing and outstanding photographic talents, he coauthored with her the first of many successful books. *Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region* was a 1988 blockbuster among Texas native plant enthusiasts and, after selling over 150,000 copies, remains in print as the best-selling horticultural reference for native plant landscaping in the region.

Over the next twelve years, this effort was followed by similar regional landscaping references by the Wasowskis: *Native Gardens for Dry Climates* (later revised and reissued as *Native Landscaping from El Paso to LA*), *Gardening with Native Plants of the South*, and *Gardening with Prairie Plants* (covering the Great Plains grasslands from Canada to Texas). These were interspersed with nationally acclaimed works such as *Requiem for a Lawnmower* and *The Landscape Revolution*, which helped define the philosophical basis for the native plant gardening movement nationally. All in all, this amazing team authored ten respected books, many that can still be found in bookstores and shops at natural history museums and botanical gardens across the country.

In 1996, the couple left Dallas for the Taos area of New Mexico. The last of their books was nearing publication and with ever the need to keep busy, Andy continued and expanded his role as a popular public speaker and a prolific freelance writer and photographer specializing in garden-

ing, horticulture, and environmental matters. His articles and photographs were found in a wide array of publications, from respected national magazines to state and local Native Plant Society newsletters, and he frequently spoke in venues across the Midwest and South, as well as back in Texas and New Mexico. Although Andy and Sally were honored in 2005 with Honorary Life Memberships of the Texas Native Plant Society and he had donated some 16,000 of his plant photographs to the National Wildflower Center in Austin, their interests and talents were now made available to NPSNM. Both were active with the Taos chapter and Andy took over as editor of the NPSNM state newsletter from 2000 to 2005, rejuvenating and expanding the publication. He also assisted Sally in her role as chair of the NPSNM publications committee, providing advice and technical support during the publication of NPSNM's popular Rocky Mountain and Central New Mexico gardening guides.

During the twenty-some years I knew Andy, he would sometimes speak of a slow-burning, secret desire to write the proverbial great novel after retirement. Of course, it was all but impossible to define *retirement* with Andy, but finally, after numerous fits and starts, rewrites and changes in direction, and even bouts of writer's block, he did publish his first and only novel. *Selling the Sizzle* hit the bookstores in 2010. A comedic look at the world of professional advertising, the book garnered reasonable reviews and had modest national sales. I know he was most proud of this accomplishment but probably a bit disappointed that it did not hit the bestseller list but, as with all things in his life, he gave it his best effort and produced a very worthy product.

Andy, unable to withstand the rigors of new rounds of debilitating cancer treatments, died in the arms of his precious Sally; beloved daughter, Sora Brodie; and first wife, Martha Bonner. Mercifully, he was spared further ravishing pain of the cancer that had returned to his spine after five fruitful and happy years of remission following prostate surgery in 2007. We all will miss his often brusque, no-nonsense, to-the-point manner, having long since seen through to the warm sunshine of his great and caring heart. We will mourn the loss of his wit, intellect, and extraordinary talents.

Although a memorial fund has been established in Texas for Andy and some personal friends are contributing to local organizations in the Taos area or their own hometowns, Sally would be most pleased if NPSNM members who are inclined to make memorial gifts do so to the Carter Conservation Fund in care of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388. ❖

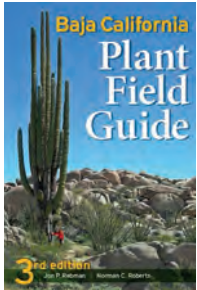
New and Recent Books

Baja California Plant Field Guide (3rd edition)

By Jon P. Rebman and Norman C. Roberts

San Diego Natural History Museum, 2012. 451 pages.

Review by Richard Felger, Gila Chapter



This book of the unique plants of the Baja California Peninsula is the finest field guide I have had the privilege to use. It is extremely user-friendly, without even a tinge of dumb-down pandering. In fact, the book is much more than a field guide. I highly recommend it even if you never have the chance to witness the botanical treasures of the two Mexican states of this 1300 km-long peninsula. The highly informative 45-page introduction includes contributions of noted scientists, all writing in an accurate and accessible manner linked to informative color illustrations.

More than 715 different plants in 111 plant families are described. Common names, when available, are provided in Spanish and English. The arrangement is alphabetical by family, genus, and species. You will find up-to-date taxonomy and family assignments, and most intriguing is author Jon Rebman giving us “insider” taxonomic information—often alluding to potential alternative classifications and reasons behind such opinions. The text is not dull. The book

finishes with a fine glossary, largely illustrated, a significant list of references, and a thorough index. The color photos are of exceptional quality, illustrating significant features of the entire spectrum of the flora—in fact, overall this is certainly one of the finest-illustrated regional plant books. The quality and quantity of color illustrations at so reasonable a price (\$35) is commendable. It is worth noting that photos in the book are also available on the San Diego Natural History Museum’s bajaflora.org website of about 23,000 photos of plants and landscapes of the Baja California Peninsula.

You don’t have to go Baja California Peninsula to enjoy this book. Many of the families, genera, and some of the species also occur in New Mexico and southern Arizona. Just look at the information woven into the text linked to the illustrations and you will be rewarded. What plant lover can turn down a chance to learn more about a land and its flora, ranging from mountaintop conifers and aspen to deserts with spectacular cacti, boojum trees—those bizarre relatives of our native ocotillo—and tropical denizens such as native figs and mangroves. I can’t imagine a Southwestern native plant person being without this book. We have waited a long time for this extensive revision of a botanical classic and the wait is worthwhile. It is gratifying to see the pioneering perseverance of Norman C. Roberts honored in such a splendid manner. ❖

The Cloudcroft *Phacelia*: An Update

by Jim McGrath, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

The elusive Cloudcroft *Phacelia* (*Phacelia cloudcroftensis*) flowered in mid July—much earlier than expected. Daniela Roth, the new NM Division of Forestry botanist, performed extensive searches for this rare plant this summer. She has found more than 250 adult plants! Recall that last year our NPSNM Rare Plant Field Trip found 14 adult plants and about 60 seedlings. During the previous year only 4 adult plants were found. Daniela found about 200 plants along Highway 82 between mileposts 12 and 13 in the Sacramento Mountains, in the same general area where plants of the previous two years had been found. Daniela found an additional 62 adult plants about a half mile from Cloudcroft along two parallel trails (T5001 and T5002). This population extends the known elevation range of the Cloudcroft *Phacelia* to 8500 feet. The *Phacelia* is known to have another population in an unnamed canyon south of Bent. On previous occa-

sions former NM Division of Forestry botanist Bob Sivinski found no more than about 3 plants in this location—more than 11 miles from the Highway 82 population. But in 2012 Daniela found no *Phacelia* plants at all in this location. On the opposite side of this mountain range she found only a single adult Cloudcroft *Phacelia* plant in Ysletano Canyon.

There is a consistent feature of the habitat where Daniela found the *Phacelia* this year: limestone gravel, often in a disturbed environment. The Cloudcroft *Phacelia* is an annual plant that responds to moisture when it is available. Therefore, the plant may still be seen in the Sacramento Mountains this year. Last year, the plant was found as late as September 25.

So if you are out hiking trails or otherwise exploring in the Sacramento Mountains, keep an eye out for this plant in disturbed gravelly locations. Look at the photos on the

Continued page 11

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 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, 505/286-8745, sedges@swcp.com. For more info on field trips and forums contact Dana Price, dana_price@gmx.com, 505/872-2646 or (cell) 512/417-9787.

Oct 3 Meeting. Bark Beetles and Hidden Sound Worlds. Dave Dunn, acoustic ecologist. Dunn explains the simple instrumentation he has used to record the auditory communications of living systems inside piñon pine trees and other environmental media, and how the auditory knowledge of bark beetles can now be used in management strategies for conifer trees infested with bark beetles.

Nov 7 Meeting. Noxious Weeds and Their Effect on Vegetative System Dynamics. Jim Wanstall, NM State Noxious Weed Coordinator. How noxious weeds affect plant succession on NM's rangelands and how manipulation of plant succession can aid in controlling noxious weed species.

Dec 9 Annual holiday potluck. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Site TBA.

El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414.

Oct 11 Meeting. Native Plant Propagation. Cheryl Garing, chapter president. Talk followed by member plant and seed exchange.

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.

Nov 8 Meeting. Herbal Safety Website Update. Armando Gonzales Stuart, PhD, University of Texas at El Paso/University of Texas Cooperative Pharmacy Program.

Nov 10 Field Trip. Devil's Staircase at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

December Date and location for holiday meeting TBA.

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, with refreshments following the program. Activity updates and further details posted on www.gilanps.org.

Oct 19 Talk. How to Get a Job at a Major Research University, Feed Your Family for Thirty-Two Years, While Producing Nothing of Any Economic Value. Kelly Allred, professor emeritus from the Range Department and current director of the Range Herbarium at NMSU. He will discuss his long career studying the flora of NM. He has published extensively on the plants of New Mexico. His most recent work is *Flora Neomexicana: An Illustrated Identification Manual*, which should be included in every NPSNM member's library.

Oct 25–26 Natural History of the Gila Symposium. See <http://gilasymposium.org> for details.

Nov 16 Talk. Insects and Their Relationship with Native Plants. Elroy Limmer, past president of GNPS and former city arborist for Peoria, IL. A nature photographer for over 50 years, he will accompany his talk with photos.

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Las Cruces

Meetings and workshops are second 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 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. Contacts: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Al Krueger, 575/532-1036.

Oct 10 Meeting. Conservation and the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Jim McGrath, NPSNM Conservation Chair.

Oct 13 Field Trip. Guadalupe Mountains canyon hike. Renée and Steve West, leaders. Meet 8:00 a.m.; meeting site/travel info TBA.

November No regular meeting.

Nov 17 Field Trip. North Sierra Vista Trail. Tom Packard, leader. Meet 8:00 a.m. at east end of Rio Grande Bank parking lot at the corner of University/Telshor.

December No meeting. Happy Holidays!

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Eric Metzler, metzlere@msu.edu, 575/443-6250; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575/585-3315 or 575/443-3928. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

Oct 20 Field Trip. Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site and more, if there is time. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the Y in Tularosa (junction Hwys 54/70). Bring lunch, water, hiking shoes, rain gear (we can always hope).

Nov 3 Annual meeting of NPSNM-Otero chapter, potluck, and elections. Gordon house on Lower Cottonwood Canyon, noon. Info, directions to come.

December No activities.

San Juan (Farmington)

Meetings are third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at San Juan Community College. For more info, contact Donna Thatcher, dthatcher@fmtn.org or 505/325-5811.

San Juan (Southwest Colorado)

Consult the San Juan/Four Corners Native Plant Society webpage at www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/San%20Juan%20Four%20Corners%20Native%20Plant%20Society.htm for the schedule of fall, winter, and spring speakers.

Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Morgan Hall—New Mexico State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe. Free parking available adjacent to the building. For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105; or visit npsnm.unm.edu.

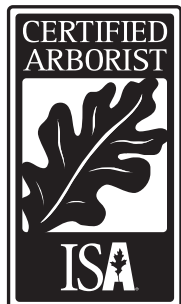
Oct 17 Meeting. Oak Trees in New Mexico. Jeffrey Bacon, faculty at NMSU—Alamogordo.

Nov 14 Meeting. Rare and Endangered Plants of New Mexico. Daniela Roth, Botany Program Coordinator, NM Forestry.

Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Coronado Hall at the Taos Convention Center. Please check the NPSNM website for updates and additional information on activities, or contact Sallie at taos800@aol.com or 575/776-0860.

Nov 28 Member Social. Meet your fellow members and bring any seeds to donate to our greenhouse project. We will also be voting on our new board. Light snacks and refreshments served.



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Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

We are pleased to report that the Carter Fund has increased in just four years to a level where the income from your contributions will soon allow the NPSNM to increase the funds available to support additional grant proposals. In spite of the poor stock market conditions, the investment income will soon permit the Board of Directors to expand the funds available to grant additional proposals in the areas of education and basic research. The generous financial support from so many 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 support of more early education programs from K-12 in New Mexico schools.

Using the form provided below, please send your check to Cindy Roper, Administrative Coordinator, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388, or contribute through PayPal on the website, www.npsnm.org. All contributions are tax deductible as provided under the law, and every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.

~Jack & Martha Carter

Carter Fund Contributors April 17 to September 7, 2012

James McGrath

Renée and Steve West

Robert and Deborah Carter

Dale A. Zimmerman in memory of Marian A. Zimmerman

Jack & Martha Carter in memory of Andy Wasowski

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Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora!

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

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The Cloudcroft Phacelia: An Update *(continued from p. 7)*

New Mexico Rare Plant website, http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/rarelist_single.php?SpeciesID=227. You may discover the *Phacelia* and add to our knowledge of its distribution, reproductive success, and habitat preference. If you find the

plant, count the number of adults and seedlings and take notes on the condition of the habitat. Then report your findings to Jim McGrath at sedges@swcp.com or to Daniela at daniela.roth@state.nm.us. ❖

NPSNM's Grants Program

The Society will consider funding for any project within or adjacent to New Mexico that contributes to the goals of the Society (education, research, and conservation). Currently we would particularly like to assist in conservation projects.

Requests are reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors. Individuals and organizations will be notified as to the acceptance or denial of their proposal. If the proposal is unsuccessful, the Society will provide reasons for the denial.

Grants are awarded to individual projects with a goal that can be completed within a stated time period and within a specified budget.

Donations are given to non-profit organizations to support ongoing work that meets the objectives and goals of the NPSNM. For example, the NPSNM gives annual donations to the five main herbaria in the state.

Grants and donations are limited to a maximum of \$1000. Grant payments may be given over time or in a lump sum. Donations are given as a lump sum.

The deadline for applying for 2013 will be December 31, 2012. Requests will only be accepted electronically. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Please see www.npsnm.org for more information. ❖

Goodbye to Mountain Forests?

The following, by New York Times writer Hillary Rosner, was posted on the paper's science blog on June 25, 2012.

When the smoke finally clears and new plant life pokes up from the scorched earth after the wildfires raging in the southern Rockies, what emerges will look radically different than what was there just a few weeks ago. According to Craig Allen, a research ecologist with the United States Geological Survey in Los Alamos, N.M., forests in the region have not been regenerating after the vast wildfires that have been raging for the last decade and a half.

Dr. Allen, who runs the Jemez Mountains Field Station at Bandelier National Monument, says those forests are burning into oblivion and grasslands and shrub lands are taking their place. "Rising temperature is going to drive our forests off the mountains," he said.

During two presentations at environmental conferences in Aspen, over the weekend and on Monday morning, Dr. Allen sketched a bleak picture of how climate change is re-drawing Southwestern landscapes.

Using data from tree ring studies, scientists have reconstructed a history of fires in the Southwest. The wildfires of the past were frequent and massive, but they stayed close to the ground and mainly helped prevent overcrowding. Take 1748. "Every mountain range we studied in the region was

burning that year," Dr. Allen said. "But those were surface fires, not destroying the forest but just keeping an open setting." Cyclical wildfires were the norm.

But beginning in 1900, when railroads enabled the spread of livestock, cattle devoured the grassy surface fuels and the fire cycle stopped. A decade later, a national policy of forest fire suppression formalized this new normal. Over the next century, forest density went from 80 trees per acre to more than 1,000.

Then in 1996, the climate emerged from a wet cycle into a dry one—part of a natural cycle for this region. Winters became drier. And "we immediately began seeing major fires," Dr. Allen said.

With so many trees crammed into the forest, fires climbed straight to the canopy instead of remaining on the ground.

"These forests did not evolve with this type of fire," said Dr. Allen. "Fire was a big deal in New Mexico, but it was a different kind of fire." The result, he said, is that the species that now live there—ponderosa pines, piñon, juniper—cannot regenerate, and new species are moving in to take their place.

"Ecosystems are already resetting themselves in ways big and small," Dr. Allen said. The challenge for managing these ecosystems, he said, is to try to help them adapt.

Seeking to preserve existing systems is futile, he said. ❖

The Generous Spirit of Native Plant Day

Both the Santa Fe and Albuquerque locations of **Plants of the Southwest** donated 10% of sales on August 18 to the NPSNM in honor of Native Plant Day in New Mexico. They sent a check for \$414!

Thank you so much to Plants of the Southwest for their generous donation.

They have been steadfast in their commitment to preserving and protecting our native flora.

Please support those who care about native plants and the NPSNM.

Native Plant Day: State Forestry Division News Release

New Mexicans celebrate our diverse culture in many ways throughout the year. Many aspects of this unique and diverse culture revolve around our natural resources.

New Mexico's forest and watershed ecosystems span five of the 11 climate zones recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture and is home to some of the most diverse native plant species in the United States and on August 18, 2012, this diversity will be recognized by Governor Susana Martinez as "Native Plant Day."

"Our natural resources help define us as a state and they are an important part of who we are," said New Mexico State Forestry Botany Program Coordinator Daniela Roth. "Many of our native plants face challenges in the years to come due to encroachment by non-native plants, development and drought, so we must nurture and protect them for future generations."

New Mexico State Forestry coordinates several programs that recognize and support the diverse nature of the state's native plants, including the Endangered Plant Program, the New Mexico Big Tree Register, the Forest Re-Leaf Program and the Conservation Seedling Program. State Forestry has statutory responsibility for maintaining the State Endangered Plant Species List. Currently New Mexico has 37 native plant species that are listed endangered, including 13 federally listed species.

Funded primarily through the federal Endangered Species Act for Endangered Plant Research and Management, the Division monitors all plant species in the state for the purpose of establishing an ongoing list of endangered plant species. In this capacity the Division gathers information relating to population abundance, distribution, habitat requirements, threats, limiting factors, and other biological and ecological data to determine the status of an endangered species.

The information is used to develop conservation measures necessary for the species' survival. The Division's program promotes the conservation of listed endangered plant species through research, inventory and monitoring, law enforcement, habitat maintenance, education, and propagation.

State Forestry's staff foresters are always on the lookout for outstanding examples of the state's native trees and plants. State Forestry's New Mexico Big Tree Program recognizes such examples by tracking the largest recorded trees found throughout the state and maintaining them in a national register. There are currently 15 National Champion Big Trees located in New Mexico.

"The Big Tree Program is a great way for the public to play a role in the conservation of our native plants and trees," said Division Urban and Community Forester Kelly Washburn. "A lot of our State and National Big Trees were first discovered by private landowners and visitors to our public lands. By showcasing 'Big Trees,' we celebrate them as symbols of diversity, resiliency, and the quality of life that we enjoy in New Mexico."

An ecosystem sometimes overlooked in our state are urban or community forest areas. These are public parks, open space areas, school yards or any forested area within a community. New Mexico State Forestry's Forest Re-Leaf Program was established in 1990 to provide a tree-planting grant program for public entities such as public schools, cities, towns, counties, soil and water conservation districts, rural fire districts and others.

Forest Re-Leaf fills a budgetary void for these entities that lack tree-planting funds. Since its inception, Forest Re-Leaf has awarded more than \$500,000 for tree-planting and education efforts. New Mexico State Forestry encourages

Continued page 13



Native Plant Day (continued from p. 12)

incorporating and utilizing native tree and shrub species in Re-Leaf projects.

One of the Division's most popular programs to promote the planting and conservation of native trees and plants is its Conservation Seedling Program. The program offers more than 50 low cost, native tree and shrub species to landowners, government agencies, and tribal agencies.

"By helping New Mexicans plant native trees and shrubs, we're helping to preserve our forest legacy for generations to come," said Conservation Seedling Forester Carol Bada. "The years of popularity this program has enjoyed shows

just how much people care about trees and want to make sure they are planting trees that are native to our state."

The seedlings are used for many different conservation purposes including reforestation, wildlife plantings, erosion control, stream bank improvement, and windbreaks. Just some of the species include ponderosa pine, native plum, golden currant, chokecherry, bristlecone pine, mountain mahogany, Rio Grande cottonwood and many more.

For information on these and the other programs that support native plants and trees in our state, log onto the Division's website at www.nmforestry.com. ♦

Conservation Corner (continued from p. 5)

Groundwater pumping may also be a serious threat to false-foxglove populations at Bitter Lake NWR. The New Mexico state engineer's office hydrologist stated in 2005 that current groundwater pumping levels would not affect the spring flows at Bitter Lake NWR unless drought conditions become greater than historic drought conditions. However, the implications of global warming suggest that these drought conditions will be exceeded in the future.

Management Focus. Another factor involves the management at Bitter Lake NWR. Historically the refuge has been managed for waterfowl and in 1995 the refuge began to focus on management of the Pecos sunflower, which at the time was proposed for listing as a federally endangered species. The refuge has a network of ditches, canals, and impoundments that have resulted in the fragmentation of the natural *ciénega* at Bitter Lake. The original *ciénega* has been fragmented and altered to the point there is likely less suitable habitat for the Leoncita false-foxglove. The point here is that there are conflicting management objectives at Bitter Lake. Endangered status for the false-foxglove would ensure that refuge management objectives include proper management in the form of suitable protection and recovery of the Leoncita false-foxglove.

Ecological Obstacles That Require Specific Management Strategies. Aggressive species like the common reed (*Phragmites australis* var. *americanus*) at Bitter Lake may crowd out or otherwise alter the required habitat of the Leoncita false-foxglove. The absence of large herbivores at both Bitter Lake and Diamond Y Spring have resulted in dense accumulations of plant material that may inhibit germination and establishment of plants like the false-foxglove. Specific management strategies like prescribed fire may be required to substitute for the absence of large herbivores in order to maintain the existing populations and assist in recovery of the species. Endangered species status would ensure that such specific ecological management strategies are utilized at the sites of the known populations.

2. Endangered Species Status. The Leoncita false-foxglove is currently listed as a Species of Concern by the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the state of New Mexico. Species of Concern status simply does not attract the attention of governmental agencies or produce the necessary funding required to perform the research and employ recovery strategies for the species. But endangered species status will require the necessary governmental attention. It will also generate funding for the necessary research and other

activities required to ensure the continued existence of the Leoncita false-foxglove and to provide for its recovery.

This last point cannot be overemphasized. We live in an era when the importance of government is continually discredited. We see government agencies that lack botanists to address their botanical problems. The one situation where we see that botanists are actually consistently employed to perform botanical work is through the Fish and Wildlife Service via the Endangered Species Act. Daniela Roth, the new state botanist with the NM Division of Forestry, says that her job only exists because of Section 6 ESA funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I recently met Ralph Fink, a U.S. Forest Service range conservationist, temporarily "detailed" to fill a vacant botanist position on the Lincoln National For-

est. Ralph's job is to focus on recovery plans for the federally endangered Sacramento prickly poppy (*Argemone pinnatisecta*). That's because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a finding that the poppy is in "jeopardy." Do you get the drift of this discourse? While there should be much more funding for professional botanists, the fact remains that the one source botanists can count on exists only because of the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Petition to List the Leoncita False-Foxglove as an Endangered Species: An NPSNM First

Now that we have made the case for endangered species status for the Leoncita false-foxglove, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, by a vote of its state Board of Directors in February 2012, has chosen to do something it has never done before. We have made a petition addressed to Mr. Ken Salazar, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, requesting that the Leoncita false-foxglove be listed as an endangered species in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act. You may view the petition online at the NPSNM website: <http://www.npsnm.org/conservation/>. ❖



Leoncita False-Foxglove in its *ciénega* habitat.

Photo by Bob Sivinski

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. Members also qualify for membership in New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. Books dealing with plants, landscaping, and environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair (contact information listed on page 4).



New Mexico wildflower posters: \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)

Cactus poster: \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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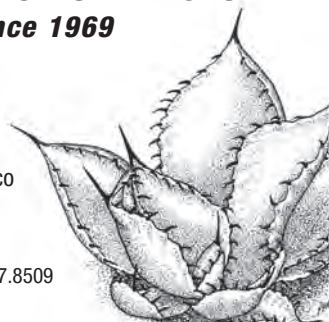
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(Please check only one)*

- | | |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso, TX | <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan (Farmington and Southwest Colorado) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gila (Silver City) | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Las Cruces | <input type="checkbox"/> Taos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in forming a new chapter in _____ | |

Annual Dues:

Individual	\$ 25
Family	30
Friend of the Society	50
Sponsor	100
Patron	250
Life Member	1,000
Limited Income, Students, and Seniors (65+)	15

Total: \$ _____

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



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4th Annual **Natural History of the Gila Symposium**

October 25–27, 2012

on the campus of Western New Mexico University, Silver City

The Gila region is recognized as a unique and dynamic landscape and the waterways, forests, and wildlife that come together to form this region are the subject of the upcoming Natural History of the Gila Symposium. Come join us on the campus of WNMU at the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center, Silver City, NM—Thursday, October 25 (1:00–5:00 p.m.), and Friday, October 26 (9:00 a.m.–noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.). The public is encouraged to attend any or all of the symposium sessions, which this year will feature land and water management, aquatic studies, environmental education, paleontology, archaeology and Native American culture, future directions for research on rare species, and nonfiction readings by seven local authors. Presentations are aimed at a broad audience of students, the general public, scientists, and natural resource managers. Optional field trips highlighting the local flora and fauna will be held Saturday morning, October 27. ■ A highlight of this year's symposium will be our keynote speaker: Dr. Randy Jennings, who on Thursday will speak on "The Upper Gila Watershed Through the Eyes of a Frog." On Friday morning, a lifetime achievement award will be presented to Jack and Martha Carter to recognize their efforts to promote botanical research, environmental education, and conservation in the Gila region. ■ The symposium is FREE! Registration is available at the door, or you can preregister by submitting the registration form available at www.gilasymposium.org.

For more information, visit <http://gilasymposium.org>