

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2013 Annual Meeting

From Here to Terra Incognita



Thursday,
 August 8

to

Sunday,
 August 11

Albuquerque

Ecosystems in a Changing Climate

As the old adage goes, the only thing we can rely on is change, and it appears that we along with all species are journeying into unfamiliar climatic territory—Terra Incognita. This theme will be carried out in diverse presentations, showcasing observational and predictive reports on how ecosystems are responding, what the newest models can tell us about New Mexico's future, and constructive measures being taken in our landscapes and in our home gardens. These subjects will come into close perspective with an array of field trips and workshops.

Meeting Location: The Thursday board meeting, registration, Friday and Saturday presentations, Friday lunch, Saturday banquet, and silent auction will be at MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, just east of University Avenue, accessible from both I-25 and I-40. All field trips will begin at the MCM Elegante as well. A Friday evening reception will be at Plants of the Southwest nursery, 6680 4th Street NW.

Accommodations: Rooms have been set aside at MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, 866/650-4900 or 505/884-2511. Rate for attendees is \$81 per night, plus tax. Rooms include full hot breakfast buffet each morning and two complimentary drink coupons per guest per evening. Call the hotel directly to make your reservation. Be sure to mention you are with the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. ❖ **Other nearby accommodations:** **Days Inn**, 800/225-3297, 2120 Menaul NE, www.daysinn.com **Fairfield Inn**, 800/228-2800, 1760 Menaul NE, www.Marriott.com/fairfield **La Quinta Inn and Suites**, 800/753-3757, 2011 Menaul NE, www.LQ.com *Call these hotels directly to make a reservation.* No special rates have been negotiated.

T-shirts, Mugs, Cookbooks: The Otero Chapter will be selling their Centennial t-shirts in gold, turquoise or desert brown, along with their "flower pot" mugs and *Cooking Wild* cookbooks.

2013 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Please note that the presenters have provided a reading and website list related to the topics below, which will be provided separately to conference registrants.

Thursday August 8

- 1:00–5:00 pm NPSNM board meeting
6:00–7:00 pm Early registration

Friday August 9

- 8:15–9:00 am Registration
9:00–9:15 am Welcome and Announcements—George Miller, President of the Albuquerque Chapter
9:20–10:05 am Keynote speaker: Renée West, President of the NPSNM, Supervisory Biologist, Carlsbad Caverns National Park— **Some Observations from Southeast New Mexico and Hope for the Future**
Weather conditions in Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the surrounding area are changing. Plants and wildlife are responding. We can make worthwhile responses to reduce the impacts if we change our approach. Plain evidence is all around us that climate change is progressing, probably faster than originally predicted.
- 10:05–10:20 am Break
10:20–11:05 am David S. Gutzler, Professor, University of New Mexico Earth & Planetary Sciences Department—
Climate Change in Southwestern North America
Dr. Gutzler will discuss observations and model projections of climate change in New Mexico and across Southwestern North America. He will review recent observed climate change and variability, touch on causes of climate variability, and summarize 21st century projections.
- 11:10–11:55 am Bob Sivinski, Botanist at Large—
Adiós Ojos y Ciénegas: The Plight of Aridland Springs in New Mexico
A comprehensive inventory of New Mexico's aridland springs and ciénegas has not been completed; however, these habitats are rare, diminishing in extent, or already eliminated. Most remaining springs are threatened, and some ciénega plants are rare and endangered. This talk will not be about climate change, but its impacts can be inferred.
- Noon–1:30 pm Lunch
1:30–2:15 pm Mary Stuever, Chama District Forester, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division—**Southwestern Forests and Climate Change**
Forests are central to climate change issues in terms of both mitigation and adaptation. Southwestern forests are particularly sensitive to extreme weather, leading to intense landscape-scale wildfires. A practicing forester and academic, Stuever will share ideas about various forest ecosystems and current and future opportunities to support healthy, resilient forests.
- 2:20–3:05 pm David Dunn, President, Art and Science Laboratory, Santa Fe—
The Acoustic Ecology of Bark Beetles and Climate Impact
This presentation will focus upon an ongoing research project that has attempted to bring artists and scientists together towards understanding how sonic interventions into the communication of tree invasive insects may lead to new control strategies. Dunn will also discuss the project's relevance to climate change issues.
- 3:05–3:20 pm Break
3:20–4:05 pm Deborah M. Finch, Program Manager, Grassland, Shrubland and Desert Ecosystems Science, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Albuquerque—**Climate Change in Grasslands, Shrublands, and Deserts of the Interior American West: A Review and Needs Assessment**
This presentation reviews climate models that predict species and vegetation changes and synthesizes knowledge about climate change impacts on the native fauna and flora of grasslands, shrublands and deserts of the interior American West. Dr. Finch will also examine responses of species and habitats to climate change.

Saturday August 10

- 8:00 am **Field trip participants** meet at MCM Elegante south (rear) parking lot for carpooling to destinations. **Workshop participants** meet at times and places described in the field trip and workshop list.
- 1:30–2:15 pm Craig D. Allen, Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Jemez Mountains Field Station, Los Alamos—**New Mexico Forests: Past, Present, and Future**
By the early 1990s many forests likely were near maximum potential levels of tree density and had reached unsustainable conditions. New research is showing how the drier, warmer climate since 1996 has triggered tree mortality, insect outbreaks, and increased fire size and severity. Dr. Allen presents the ecological drivers and effects of these landscape changes, along with adaptation strategies.
- 2:20–3:05 pm Judith Phillips, Landscape Designer, Writer and Educator, Judith Phillips Design Oasis and Judith Phillips INK—**Querencia: Strategies for Gardening in an Increasingly Extreme Climate**
Querencia is the sense of being joined so closely with our place that what is good for the place is good for us. Growing native plants is one piece of the process that creates synergy between the architecture of the space and the living landscape, managing water with care, and making comfortable habitat.
- 3:05–3:20 pm Break
- 3:20–4:20 pm **Brief (up to 15 minutes) presentations by statewide members** whose proposals are selected (see separate invitation to submit proposals on page 20 of this newsletter)
- 6:30–9:00 pm Banquet at MCM Elegante Hotel—Chicken dinner as well as vegetarian/vegan offerings
 Banquet speaker: Eric Blinman, Director, New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies—**2000 Years of Climate Change and Human Response in the Southwest**
The upland Southwest has one of the most detailed records in the world of both climate change and the history of human responses to those changes. This “laboratory” provides a useful perspective on the sustainability of social and economic systems in an arid landscape.

Sunday August 11

Field trip participants meet at MCM Elegante south (rear) parking lot for carpooling to destinations.

Workshops and Field Trips

Workshops. Maps or directions will be provided to guide participants to venues other than the Elegante Hotel. An escort may also be provided to guide participants from the Elegante Hotel parking lot to workshop venue. Fees, if any, are payable at the workshop site unless otherwise noted.

Field Trips. All field trips start from Elegante Hotel parking lot at the start time indicated. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, snacks, lunch on Sunday, and appropriate shoes.

THURSDAY August 8

Workshop 1. Rare Plant Workshop 1:00–4:00 pm

Participants are introduced to the NM Rare Plant Website. We will examine specimens of rare plants in the Albuquerque area and compare them to similar species. We will learn habitat requirements, distribution and conservation concern for each species. An optional follow-up field trip to find some of these rare plants will take place on Saturday (Field Trip #1). **Limit:** 10 **Location:** UNM Herbarium **Instructor:** Botanist Jim McGrath

SATURDAY August 10

Workshop 2. Not Your Mama's Nopalitos 9:30 am–Noon

El Paso Chapter's Gringo Gourmet takes cooking prickly pear to a new level with non-traditional recipes. This workshop will demonstrate cooking techniques and provide opportunities to taste creative takes on cactus dining from soup to dessert. **Limit:** 15 **Location:** 4H Demo Kitchen, 1510 Menaul NW **Instructor:** Gringo Gourmet Jim Hastings

Fee: \$5 (payable at registration)

Continued next page

Workshop 3. The Wonders of a Wildlife Habitat Garden: An Exciting Style of Landscaping 8:00 am–Noon

Changing your yard into a wildlife habitat is one way to restore our natural world. Topics covered in the workshop include important concepts and guidelines to use in creating and understanding your own habitat garden plan. We will also visit several gardens certified by the National Wildlife Federation. In the workshop, you will create a conceptual habitat plan tailored to your yard. **Limit:** 8 **Location:** Elegante Hotel **Instructor:** Habitat Landscape Designer and past NPSNM–Albuquerque Chapter President Virginia Burris **Fee:** \$10 (payable at registration)

Workshop 4. Why Won't They Come Up? 9:30–11:30 am

A discussion of why many native seeds need special conditions to germinate, and how to meet those needs in order to propagate native plants. Some demonstration and some hands-on activities will result in seeded 4-packs or seeds in baggies to take home. **Limit:** 12 **Location:** Desert Spring Nursery, 137 Charleston NE **Instructor:** Peggy Wells, Owner of Desert Spring Nursery

Field Trip 1. White Mesa Gyp Soils 8:00 am–Noon

This is the follow-up field trip to Thursday's Rare Plant Workshop. Workshop participants have priority, but all are welcome on this field trip. We will look for several rare plant species (and any other plants that catch our eye) in gypsum outcrops near San Ysidro. A species list will be provided. **Difficulty:** Easy, but with a few steep slopes **Limit:** 15 **Location:** 45 minutes from Albuquerque **Leader:** Botanist Jim McGrath

Field Trip 2. Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area 8:00 am–Noon

We tour a former farming area being developed for wildlife, principally waterfowl. Part of the area is being planted with native species and returned to bosque, part is being turned into wetland, and another part is being farmed for avian feed. Some 6000 cottonwood, New Mexico olive, mesquite, sumac, and other native woody species have been planted. Invaders such as salt cedar, Russian olive, and Siberian elm are being removed. **Location:** Belen, 45 minutes from Albuquerque **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Retired BLM Botanist Don Heinze

Field Trip 3. Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium 8:00 am–Noon

Native plants are important for native fish! This tour will demonstrate why a facility that mimics nature, rather than a standard hatchery, can help scientists understand the minnow's life cycle requirements and raise healthier fish for release back to the river. Afterwards, we will visit the Tingley Wetland Project, which illustrates the challenges of restoring our native bosque and controlling invasive species. **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** USACE Fisheries Biologist Mick Porter

Field Trip 4. Rio Grande Botanic Garden 8:45 am–Noon

This easy-paced tour will include the Desert Conservatory, Curandera Garden, Butterfly Pavilion and Dragonfly Sanctuary Pond as we view both native plants and those from faraway places. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Rio Grande Botanic Garden Associate Curator Dave Ferguson **Fee (payable on site):** NM resident: \$9/adult, \$4.50/senior; Non-resident: \$12.50/adult, \$5.50/senior

Field Trip 5. Cottonwood Ecology 8:00–11:30 am

We will view the Cottonwood Ecology Group's video *A Thousand Invisible Cords: Connecting Genes and Ecosystems*, followed by a guided walk through Albuquerque's riparian cottonwood forest. The Nature Center also offers a visitor center, native plant garden, and pollinator garden. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Volunteer Naturalist Sandra Lynn

Field Trip 6. Sabino Canyon 8:00 am–Noon

We will hike a loop trail in the Manzanita Mountains through open meadows and juniper woodlands. The meadows have a great diversity of wildflowers. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** 7000–7200' **Distance:** 2 miles **Location:** S of Tijeras on I-40, 45 min. from Albq. **Leader:** Retired NM Museum of Natural History Groundskeeper Gary Runyan

Field Trip 7. Working with Keys to Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico 8:00 am–Noon

This trip will visit several elevation zones of the Sandia Mountains while teaching how to work with dichotomous keys. Participants will practice identifying and keying trees and shrubs in several habitats. Highly recommended: Bring a copy of Jack Carter's *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* and a hand lens. This trip is for avid learners and easy-going hikers. **Leaders:** Educators Jack Carter and Jason Roback

Field Trip 8. Edible and Medicinal Plants of the Sandias 8:00 am–Noon

This is a gentle hike on the 10K Trail. Some of the taxa encountered in previous years include Oshá, fernleaf lousewort, ninebark, and baneberry. Plant lists provided. **Difficulty:** Easy, but high elevation **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** 10,000' **Location:** 1 hour from Albuquerque, about 11 miles from NM 14 on the Crest Hwy (NM 536) **Leaders:** Ethnobotanist Pam McBride and Becky Schnelker

Field Trip 9. Sandia Crest and Nearby Areas 8:00 am–Noon

A leisurely wildflower hike along the Sandia Crest and nearby lower elevations, depending on time available and condition of the plants. Emphasis is to be on field identification of as many wildflowers in different habitats as we can fit in. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** to 10,678' **Location:** 1 hr. from Albuquerque **Distance:** 1–1.5 miles **Leaders:** Larry Littlefield and Pearl Burns, Authors, *Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains of Central New Mexico*

Field Trip 10. Sandia Crest Hike Crest House Visitors Center to Tram Station 8:00 am–Noon

The trail provides spectacular views of the Rio Grande Valley, West Mesa volcanoes, and Mt. Taylor 65 miles away. The sunny exposure and limestone soils support a piñon-juniper/ponderosa pine forest transition, often with 50+ species of flowers blooming this time of the year with ample rain. The return trip passes through spruce-fir forest and two meadows. Bring notebook. A plant list with page numbers from DeWitt Ivey's *Flowering Plants of New Mexico* will be provided. **Difficulty:** Moderate **Limit:** 15 **Distance:** 4 miles **Location:** about 1 hour from Albuquerque **Leader:** Author, Nature Photographer and Naturalist George Miller

SUNDAY August 11

Note: The ending time for Sunday trips is at the site, unless otherwise stated.

Field Trip 11. The Bosque Under Siege 8:00 am–Noon

This field trip takes place at the Los Lunas River Park. No fewer than five species of alien invasive plants are replacing the original native flora and taking over the Rio Grande bosque. All invaders have been designated as noxious weeds by the NM Dept. of Agriculture. The most disturbing thing is that this area is typical of much, if not most, of the Rio Grande's riparian vegetation from north of Albuquerque to Las Cruces. Recommended books to bring along are DeWitt Ivey's *Flowering Plants of New Mexico* and *A Field Guide to the Plants and Animals of the Rio Grande Bosque*. **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Retired BLM Botanist Don Heinze

Field Trip 12. Manzano Mountains 8:30 am–12:30 pm

A leisurely wildflower hike depending totally on the summer rainfall and where wildflowers can be found; if the Manzanos are lacking many wildflowers, we will go to mid-elevations or higher in the Sandias. Emphasis is to be on field identification of as many wildflowers in different habitats as we can fit in. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** 7,500–8,500' **Leaders:** Larry Littlefield and Pearl Burns, Authors, *Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains of Central New Mexico*

Field Trip 13. San Pedro Parks and San Gregorio Reservoir 8:00 am–3:00 pm

The trail to the reservoir gradually ascends into the San Pedro Parks Wilderness. Plants that occur in higher elevation settings that can be seen along the trail might be Gunnison's mariposa lily, Monk's hood, rattlesnake plantain, or NM checkermallow. See the NPSNM website under the Albuquerque Chapter for a checklist of the flora for San Gregorio Lake. **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** 9,300' **Location:** Near Cuba, off State Rd. 127 & Forest Rd. 70 **Leaders:** Ethnobotanist Pam McBride and Horticulturalist/Botanist Philip Clark

Field Trip 14. The Narrows Rim Trail at El Malpais National Conservation Area 8:00 am–3:00 pm

Paul and Sheila will show us wildflowers in a diversity of plant habitats that include the base of the west-facing cliffs, the lava and the mid-Cretaceous sandstone mesa top. Meet at El Malpais ranger station at 9:15 am. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Elevation:** 7,000' **Location:** Near Cuba, off State Rd. 127 & Forest Rd. 70 **Location:** 70 miles W of Albuquerque and 9 miles S of I-40 Exit 89 on Hwy 117 **Leaders:** BLM Ranger Educator Paul Yoder and BLM Volunteer Naturalist Sheila Brewer

Continued next page

Field Trip 15. Quebradas! 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Auto tour on the Quebradas Backcountry Byway. *Quebradas* means “breaks” in Spanish, referring to the rugged terrain, which includes bench lands and a series of colorful north-south trending ridges. We will make a few stops to explore various arroyos and rock outcrops, but the highlight will be a gypsum outcrop with plants specifically adapted to gypsum. Passenger vehicles are fine unless there has been recent rain. **Limit:** 15 **Location:** Starts at Escondida on I-25 about 5 mi N of Socorro, ends on Hwy 380 11 mi E of San Antonio **Leader:** Botanist/Naturalist Jim McGrath

Field Trip 16. San Lorenzo Canyon 8:00 am–1:00 pm

We will explore this BLM recreation area, beginning with searching for wildflowers in a broad desert environment, and then proceeding by vehicle toward a narrow canyon. Hike is easy walking up the flat canyon for 1–2 miles, but there will be one minor rock scramble. We'll look for seeps and occasional trickles of water that support colonies of diverse plants. As the canyon narrows, the creek bed winds beneath towering cliffs with rock shelters, cracks and arches, and intriguing geological formations. **Difficulty:** Easy, but with 1 minor rock scramble **Limit:** 15 **Location:** 13 mi N of Socorro **Leader:** Author, Nature Photographer and Naturalist George Miller

Field Trip 17. Albuquerque Volcanoes at Petroglyph National Monument 8:00 am–Noon

We will explore the ecology of wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs of desert grassland and plains mesa sandscrub habitat. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Ecologist Jim Nellesen

Field Trip 18. Pino Canyon in the Sandia Mountains 8:00 am–Noon+

This trip reveals the depth and diversity of the western side of the Sandia Mountains. Beginning through high desert grass and shrubs, we soon reach shady woodlands, visit a lush site of seasonal stream flow and eventually a spring. Beautiful views. While hardy hikers can continue on to the crest trail among firs and spruces (9200'), those with less time or stamina can easily return to the parking area on the well-defined path. **Difficulty:** Easy (to spring)/Moderate (full length) **Limit:** 15 **Leader:** Naturalist Tom Stewart

Field Trip 19. Ojito Wilderness 8:00 am–1:00 pm

We will explore this desert wilderness with meandering arroyos, steep-sided mesas, box canyons and badlands. We will visit a relic ponderosa pine forest and see native buckwheats, cacti, grasses and asters. Hike is mostly on flat, hard-packed dirt. **Difficulty:** Easy **Limit:** 15 **Location:** W of San Ysidro, about 80 minutes from Albuquerque **Leaders:** Ara Kooser and Kerry Calhoun

Field Trip 20. Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument 8:00 am–1:00 pm

We explore the cone-shaped tent rock formations formed from tuff deposits from the Jemez volcanic field. Indian paintbrush, Apache plume, rabbitbrush, and manzanita are among the native plants we will see. The hike includes an optional, 630-foot climb to the mesa top, where there are excellent views of the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez and Sandia Mountains and the Rio Grande Valley. **Difficulty:** Moderate/strenuous (with optional climb) **Limit:** 15 **Distance:** 2.7 miles **Location:** 1.5 hrs from Albuquerque **Leader:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Botanist Dana Price **Fee:** \$5 per vehicle (payable at start of trip)

Field Trip 21. Valles Caldera National Preserve 8:00 am–2:00 pm

The Valles Caldera is home to nearly 400 species of native plants. The trip will move from habitat to habitat to see the largest number possible. We will visit the unique “Alamo Bog” to see the disjunct willow and some fairly rare sedges. Other areas will include riparian, open meadow and wetlands. Species list provided. We will caravan to the preserve and ride in VCNP vans while there. **Limit:** 10 **Leader:** Botanist/Naturalist Chick Keller **Fee:** \$20 (payable at start of trip)

For additional information, please visit
www.npsnm.org/events/2013-annual-conference/

**From Here to Terra Incognita
2013 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM.

Name		NPSNM Chapter	
Address		City	State Zip
Phone (home)	(cell)	E-mail Address	

Please register early. Field trips and workshops have limited enrollment.

Field Trips/Workshop Preferences (Indicate by number *plus* FT or W)*

Saturday 1st Choice (#) _____ 2nd Choice (#) _____ 3rd Choice (#) _____
Sunday 1st Choice (#) _____ 2nd Choice (#) _____ 3rd Choice (#) _____

Banquet, Friday lunch and snacks are included in conference fee.

Banquet Preference: Please check one Chicken Vegetarian/Vegan
 Extra banquet ticket(s): \$25 Chicken Vegetarian/Vegan

REGISTRATION

NPSNM Member	Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid by 7/1/13 \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid by 7/1/13 \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid by 8/1/13 \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid by 8/1/13 \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> To pay on site \$85 (banquet not included)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra banquet ticket \$25	

*Include here any charges for materials or transport your activity choices (one per day) require:

Saturday charge \$ _____ Sunday charge \$ _____
 (Charges refunded if trip or workshop is closed.) **TOTAL \$ _____**

Send form(s) with check made out to Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM to:

Gary Runyan, 1600 Gonzales Rd. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM State Conference. The Albuquerque chapter, hosting the meeting August 8–11, invites your donation of items that might be of interest to other members.

For more information or to offer one of your invaluables, please contact Beth Herschman at herschman9@aol.com.

Invitation to NPSNM Members to Make Presentations at the Annual Meeting on August 10

The 2013 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque will feature fascinating speakers from an unusually wide variety of professional disciplines. But one hour on Saturday afternoon has been reserved *just for you*. The Program Subcommittee encourages you to submit a proposal for an illustrated talk *you* would like to present.

Proposal Guidelines

- Talks should be planned to last no longer than 15 minutes.
- Your topic can be anything related to New Mexico native plants.
- Audiovisual equipment will be set up at the meeting for the use of all presenters. If you will require any special additional equipment, please specify in your proposal.
- Describe your proposed presentation in a paragraph.
- Provide a title for your proposed presentation.
- Include your
 - name
 - mail address
 - telephone number
 - email address
- Send your proposal by email or snail mail to
 - sandra.d.lynn@gmail.com

or

 - Sandra D. Lynn, 1814 Hermosa Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
- If you send it by snail mail, please include 5 copies of it for distribution to the program subcommittee. (If you send it by email, Sandra will simply forward your proposal to the members of the subcommittee.)
- Your proposal should be received by June 15, 2013.

Only three presenters will be selected. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made its decision.