

2013 Schedule for NPSNM - Taos Chapter

***** **GENERAL INFORMATION** *****

TALKS are sponsored by the Taos Chapter of the Native Plants Society of New Mexico (NPSNM-Taos) and are held in the Taos Convention Center at 120 Civic Plaza Drive from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, April through November. Our talks are free and open to the public. Please join us! For more information or to join, please send an email to Sallie at: taos800@aol.com.

FIELD TRIPS/HIKES (half day/all day) are free and open to the public. Details follow below. *Please bring plenty of water, comfortable walking shoes, snack/lunch, sunscreen, hat and a smile!*

***** **OUR SCHEDULE** *****

April 17 (Talk): Meet our new Extension Agent, Tony Valdez (a local Taoseno), for a native plant Q&A. (*Los Angelitos room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

May 22 (Talk): Attend a 'just-in-time' talk presented by Dr. John Ubelaker¹ (co-chair of our Field Botany Committee) regarding the hummingbirds of North Central New Mexico and their favorite native plants. (*Los Angelitos room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

May 25 (Half Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. John Ubelaker¹ at the Ft. Burgwin-SMU campus to learn about plants of the Transition Zone. This zone extends from about 6,000 to 8,000 feet and is characterized by groups of native Ponderosa pines. At the SMU-in-Taos campus at Ft. Burgwin, we will examine the biology of this tree and other trees that are invasive from higher to lower zones. Native flowering plants will also be viewed and discussed.

June 15 (All Day Field Trip): Cool off with us in the mountains on an all-day field trip/hike. Meet Dr. John Ubelaker¹ at 8 AM at the KTAO parking lot to drive together to Italianos Canyon to learn about plants of the Canadian Zone. Cross mountain streams seven times and hike an old mule trail which moved gold from the mountain top to the bottom for processing. We will also hike to an Aspen grove and learn about the role of Aspen in the Spruce and Fir forest.

June 19 (Talk): Attend a talk presented by Dr. Dave Dubois² regarding the future prospects for our climate in the Taos area for the next 50 to 60 years, including the trickle-down affect on plants and animals in our area. (*Los Angelitos room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

June 20, Thursday (Plant Sale): Native Plant Sale for **MEMBERS ONLY** at our greenhouse. (**Become a member!**)

June 22, Saturday (Plant Sale): Native Plant Sale for the General Public at Taos Farmers Market at 8 AM. Purchase your native plants, grown and nurtured in our greenhouse!

June 28, Friday (Tour): Gardens in Progress Tour for **MEMBERS ONLY**. Tour the gardens of private homes to learn how easily you can integrate beautiful, low maintenance native plants into your landscape. At the end of the tour, enjoy a potluck lunch at a member's home. (**Become a member!**)

July 6, Saturday (All Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. John Ubelaker¹ at 8 AM at the Ranchos Church (across from Martina's Hall) to carpool to Box Canyon on Ghost Ranch for a hike on a secure trail. We will walk approximately one mile alongside a stream to view a bank of orchids watered by seepage from the canyon wall. Depending on water flow, we may also see a waterfall. (*Easy hike with an approximate altitude range from 5,000 feet to 5,100 feet. Bring a walking stick if desired.*)

August through November: Members and friends alike are encouraged to begin harvesting native plant seeds. How? Place seeds in **paper envelopes or sacks**, label with the common name (botanical if known), collection date, and then seal. For larger seed heads or large quantities, place them in a paper bag, seal and label. When collecting in the wild, take no more than 10% of seeds in a given plant stand. Bring your seeds to our meetings, give to a NPSNM member or drop them off at our Greenhouse. We appreciate your help!

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August 3, Saturday (All Day Field Trip): Meet David Witt³ at 8 AM at the KTAO parking lot to carpool to the hikers' parking lot at the Williams Lake trailhead. We will walk two miles to Williams Lake and focus on sub-alpine and alpine plants. (*Moderate hike with an approximate altitude range from 10,100 feet to 11,100 feet. Bring a walking stick if desired.*)

August 19, Monday (Half Day Field Trip): Meet Dr. John Ubelaker¹ at 9 AM at the KTAO parking lot to carpool to the old hippie colony, New Buffalo, in Arroyo Hondo (limited parking at New Buffalo). We will learn about composting and gardening techniques in the high desert. Optionally, bring gloves if you want to volunteer some time afterwards to weed the vegetable garden! (*Easy walk in buildings and outside. No hiking or altitude change.*)

September 11, Wednesday (Field Trip): MEMBERS ONLY. Meet at 9 AM at the Ranchos Church to carpool to Tooley's Tree Sale. We will either haul the trees back with us or arrange a Taos delivery date.

September 25, Wednesday (Talk): Attend a talk presented by Bob Pennington⁴, owner of Santa Fe's Aqua Fria Nursery, regarding New Mexico's sun-loving, drought-tolerant gorgeous penstemons. Learn about the flower colors and why some pollinators are attracted to only certain colors. Bob will share his easy 'growing from seed' techniques. Seeds collected by Bob will be available for purchase after the talk. (*El Taoseno room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

October 16, Wednesday (Talk): **Due to emergency surgery, the talk and workshop by Dr. Jack Carter⁵ are cancelled.** In his place, we are offering a special free DVD screening of "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time." This is a wonderful Emmy-winning documentary on one of our earliest ecologists. The film beautifully portrays both Leopold's personal life and his work in land conservation from the Southwest to the Midwest. His memoir, "A Sand County Almanac" remains a bible of sorts for environmentalists worldwide. The running time is 73 min. For more information on Aldo Leopold and this film, visit www.aldoleopold.org. (*El Taoseno room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

November 20, Wednesday (Annual Social & Election of 2014 Officers): Please join us at our Annual Social and Election of 2014 Officers. There will be a silent auction of donated art items and a raffle. Raffle ticket prices are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. Become a member! Become an officer so you can help lead next year's activities! (*Los Angelitos room of Coronado Hall, Taos Convention Center*)

NOTE: Our schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions or would like to join, please send an email to: taos800@aol.com.

flora ~ friends ~ fun

***** **ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS** *****

¹ **Dr. Ubelaker** is a professor of Biological Sciences at SMU. For the past 13 years he has served as Director of the SMU-in-Taos campus at Ft. Burgwin where he teaches summer sessions. His talks and field trips are always fun and informative.

² **Dr. Dave Dubois** is the New Mexico State Climatologist and State Coordinator for CoCoRaHS (www.cocorahs.org/), the grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers working together in their local communities to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). He is a professor in the Plant and Environmental Sciences Department at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Check out the NM Climate Center website at <http://weather.nmsu.edu/>. View his frequent New Mexico weather-related tweets, access a clickable map of weather stations, and review drought information.

³ **David Witt** is an art historian, naturalist and Taos resident. He is the Seton Legacy Project Curator for the Academy for the Love of Learning in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His ongoing research is posted at www.setonlegacyproject.blogspot.com. He has authored essays, articles, and book contributions on nature and art history topics, including four books. He holds academic degrees from Kansas State University and University of Oklahoma. Other credits include: previous Curator of Harwood Foundation of the University of New Mexico, Founder of New Mexico Art History Conference/Southwest Art History Council, Consultant and on-camera for "Lobo, the Wolf that Changed America", BBC/PBS "Nature", "Painting Taos", KNME "Colores"; and a Photographer and Naturalist for the Baffin Island Expedition for the University of Texas at El Paso.

⁴ **Bob Pennington** owns and operates Aqua Fria nursery in Santa Fe, which he started with his father in 1975 with minimal gardening experience. Graduating from Utah State with a photography/advertising illustrator degree, he later attended seminary school in Berkeley earning a degree in Theology. He was a social worker in Philadelphia and Denver

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until moving to Santa Fe. He is the past president (numerous times) and a life member of the American Penstemon Society. He teaches numerous gardening classes at Santa Fe's Community College.

⁵ **Dr. Jack Carter** taught at Emporia State University and Colorado College, Colorado Springs, teaching in the Biology Department from 1968 until he retired in 1995. He remains a professor emeritus and continues research on floristics of SW New Mexico and Gila National Forest. He and his wife, Martha, operate Mimbres Publications, dedicated to publishing books on natural history. They established a Conservation Fund as "a means of protecting our small part of planet Earth for future generations. Conservation will be better served when all people see themselves as part of the natural world."