

2018 Donations, Grants, and Teacher Award Announced

by Bettie Hines, Albuquerque chapter

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 27, 2018, to approve donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso, review and award grant proposals, and determine the Teacher Award for 2018.

Herbaria: \$600 donations will be given to the following herbaria: University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso, San Juan College, and Western New Mexico University.

The **Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund** continues to support the grant awards. The Society expresses much gratitude and appreciation to the Carters, who generously established this fund, and to all who have contributed to this worthwhile cause. *Please continue to support this fund so that it grows and can support the grants in the future.*

Grants: The following grants were awarded:

- Photosynthesis and Carbon Cycling Lessons for New Mexico 7th Graders; Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces, NM
- Floral Surveys of Manzano Wilderness Area in Valencia County and Baseline Survey of Sabinosa Wilderness; Steven Perkins, Assistant Professor, Biology/Ecology, San Juan College Herbarium
- Potential Adaptation of Brassicaceae of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert to Gypsum Soils by Repurposing Chemical Defenses; LK "Kal" Touminen, Biology Student, John Carroll University
- Proceedings of the 7th Natural History of the Gila Symposium; William Norris, Professor of Biology, WNMU
- Expansion of Native Plant Curriculum Education into Southern New Mexico; Sara Digby, Education Coordinator, IAE
- *Carex* Measurement Project; Jim McGrath, Botanist, JM Botanical Enterprises
- Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River; Donna Stevens, Director, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
- The Impact of Grassland Restoration Practices on Desert Soils; Kathleen Esther Schaeffer, PhD student, UTEP

Teacher Award: Mary Erwin, Wilson Middle School, Albuquerque. Mary plans to use her award to purchase lab kits to make it easier for teachers to incorporate the campus garden into their curriculum and to purchase native seeds to increase the diversity of their plantings and provide more food and shelter for pollinators. □