

2017 Annual Report – Albuquerque Chapter Native Plant Society of New Mexico

OFFICERS

President: George Miller
Vice President: Tom Stewart
Secretary: Dara Saville
Treasurer: Gary Runyan / Debbie Conger
Program Chair: Jim McGrath
Field Trip Coordinator: Carol Conoboy
State Board Representative: Bettie Hines

Core Group (essential volunteers, invited to board meetings)

Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski
Publicity: Melissa Ewer / Charlie Jackson
Communications: Gary Hoe
Refreshments Chair: Gary Hoe
Hospitality: Doris Eng
Conservation: Sue Small
Invasive Weeds State Representative: Don Heinz
Habitat Gardening Facilitator: Virginia Burris
Book Sales: Carolyn Dodson
Community Outreach: Bettie Hines

PROGRAMS

Meeting attendance varied between 65–115, averaging about 85.

January 4. Meeting. "Designing Shared Habitat." Landscape designer and author, Judith Phillips presents a "warm-up" for our chapter's Habitat Landscape Workshop on February 10-11.

February 1. Meeting. "Flora of the Ladder Ranch." UNM Biology graduate student Matt Gautreaux describes the floral diversity on the Ladder Ranch just east of the Black Range north of Hillsboro, NM.

March 1 Meeting. "Adios Ojos y Ciénegas: Our Endangered Desert Wetlands" Bob Sivinski, Curatorial Associate of the UNM Herbarium and botanical consultant.

April 5. Meeting. "The Yerba Mansa Project: Community-Driven Native Plant Restoration in the Bosque." Dara Saville, herbalist, landscape geographer, and native plant conservationist.

May 3. Meeting. "Eriogonum and Penstemon: Two Genera with Eye-catching Wildflowers and Numerous New Mexico Species." Bob Pennington, owner/manager of the Agua Fria Nursery in Santa Fe.

June 7. Meeting. " The Lizards of New Mexico." Patrick Alexander.

July 5. Meeting. How to woo a bee: The role of flower color, scent, and shape in attracting bees. Olivia Carril, plant biologist and author of *The Bees in Your Backyard*, a Field Guide to North America's Bees."

September 6. Meeting. "Plants and the Atmosphere: Air Pollution to Climate Change." Botanist and plant ecologist Jim Nellessen.

October 4. Meeting. "What tree-rings tell us about historical fire occurrence on the west slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, Taos, New Mexico." Lane Johnson, a historical ecologist with Bandelier National Monument and the New Mexico Landscapes Field Station (US Geological Survey).

November 1. Meeting. "Forty Years of Change in the Sunflower Bee Community in the Southwestern United States." Catherine Cumberland, PhD student at UNM Biology

December 2, Annual holiday potluck and officers election.

FIELD TRIPS (12)

April 15. Field Trip. Quebradas Backroads Byway. Leader: Jim McGrath.

April 23. Sunday Field Trip. Pine Flats to see Pasque Flowers. Leader: Gary Runyan.

May 13. Saturday Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range (north end). David L. Anderson, retired CIV, White Sands Missile Range, leader.

May 20 Los Alamos, Rio Grande Canyon. Chick Keller, leader. Red dot trail.

June 3 Field Trip. Cuba Badlands: Mesa Penistaja. Leader, Lenore Goodell. Mesa Penistaja BLM badlands is a Nacimiento Formation about 20 miles west of Cuba.

June 10. Field Trip. Wildflower Walk in Elena Gallegos Open Space. Leaders Tom Stewart and Doris Eng.

June 17 Pollinator Garden Tour – In celebration of Albuquerque's Bee City USA Pollinator week, tour the Rio Grande Nature Center native plant gardens, the Unitarian Church garden, and a private residential garden. Begin 8:30 am at the Rio Grande Garden Center.

June 24-25 Jicarita Peak. Saturday traveled to Agua Piedra campground near Sipapu ski area for moderate difficulty hike into alpine tundra.

July 8. Saturday Field Trip. Valles Caldera National Preserve. Leader: George Miller.

August 12. Field Trip. "Red Canyon in the Manzanos." Leaders Doris Eng and George Miller.

August 18-19. Holy Ghost Canyon Trail. Pecos Wilderness. Leader Tom Stewart. Viewed the endangered Holy Ghost ipomopsis in flower.

August 26. Saturday Field Trip. "El Malpais." Pam McBride, leader.

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Pollinator Habitat Design Workshop

February 10-11. 6-9 pm, Friday evening, 9 am-4 pm, Saturday. UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, Albuquerque. The workshop was an overwhelming success as both an educational program to increase the interest in creating backyard habitats as a landscape option, and to increase the public awareness of the Native Plant Society and its mission to protect and promote native plant habitat conservation. We had 100 people sign up for the conference, which featured seven speaker over the two-day weekend meeting, and filled the follow-up, one-on-one design workshop the next Saturday morning with 25 people and a waiting list.

Herbfest, May 7: Rio Grande Nature Center–Table and speaker, George Miller

Osuna Nursery "University" series: two programs by Judith Phillips and George Miller

Bee City USA Festival: NPS played an integral roll in planning the city-wide festival culminating with a garden tour and festival at the Coors Open Space Center.

Outreach and Tabling Events (13)

January 28, 29-Celebrate Sevilleta-Tabling event

February 7-UNM Plants and People Wikipedia Edit-a-thon. Handed out information and saw demonstration on editing Wikipedia articles.

March 17, 18-Monarch Workshop, Albuquerque Academy

April 20-UNM Earth Day Edit-a-thon: A Wikipedia editing event focusing on the environment

April 21 Sandia High School Earth Day

April 22 Bosque del Apache Arboretum Stroll

April 23 La Montanita Co-op Earth Day

May 12 National Public Gardens Day, Abq BioPark

May 13 & 14 HerbFest Rio Grande Nature Center

June 18 Bee City USA Abq Open Space

September 30 Valle de Oro's 5th Birthday Party

Early October US Fish and Wildlife 20th Anniversary-Variou events at Valle de Oro, NWR, Sevilleta, NWR and Bosque del Apache NWR-limited participation

November 18 &19 Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache