

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
TAOS CHAPTER
2017 Annual Report**

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STANDING COMMITTEES:

Chapter Rep to State NPS: Jan Martenson
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Membership: vacant

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Field Botany: John Ubelaker
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Publicity: Charlene Rose Johnson
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Greenhouse: vacant

*** 2017 Programs ***

All our talks are videotaped by the Digital Media Arts Department of UNM-Taos and can be found at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mhds73l>

Attendance ranged from 8 to 35 people.

Mar. 15 Hummingbirds of North Central New Mexico and their favorite native plants. John Ubelaker, Professor, SMU-in-Taos/ Fort Burgwin.

Apr. 19 Natural Landscapes and Human Habitat: connectivity, restoration, and care. Sylvia Rains Dennis, native plant ecologist/educator, Director of Wildlandance, Taos.

May 17 Save a Place for Wildlife. George Miller, president, Albuquerque chapter, NPSNM; environmental photojournalist, naturalist and author.

June 21 Native and Naturalized Trees for Taos Landscapes. Paul Bryan Jones, Arborist, Taos.

Aug 23 Bees in Your Backyard. Olivia Carril, co-author of the book, from Santa Fe

flora ~ friends ~ fun

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Sept. 14-17 NPSNM Annual Conference hosted by Taos Chapter

Oct. 18 **Spruce-Fir: A Different Kind of Forest.** Toby Gass, owner, Informed Land Management LLC, Santa Fe.

*** 2017 Field Trips/Hikes/Activities ***

Attendance on field trips and hikes ranged from 4 to 24 people.

May 9 Field Trip to Santa Fe for plant shopping at Santa Fe Master Gardeners Fair, Agua Fria Nursery, and Plants of the Southwest, led by Jan Martenson

May 20 Trees of Taos, SMU / Ft. Burgwin, led by Dr. John Ubelaker

June 4 Santa Barbara Canyon, led by Jan Martenson

June 23 Gardens in Progress Tour for MEMBERS only. About 20 members toured three member homes with diverse landscapes and gardens and enjoyed a brown-bag lunch in the last garden.

July 9 Columbine Canyon Hike, led by Jan Martenson

July 22 Amole Canyon hike, led by David Witt

Aug 12 Workshop: Distillation of *Artemisia tridentata*, led by Wendy Whiteman

Aug. 19 New Mexico Native Plant Day. Eight member volunteers took part in this public outreach with information, native plants & books sales at Cid's Supermarket in Taos. Over 50 people stopped by and we sold almost \$700 worth of books and plants.

Aug. 20 Williams Lake Hike, led by Kathryn Mayer

Aug. 26 Bee Walk with Olivia Carril

*** Taos Hosting of Annual Meeting & Other Projects ***

1. **Hosting of NPSNM 2017 Annual Conference, Sept. 14-17:** over 170 people registered for the conference, held at the campus of SMU-in-Taos at Fort Burgwin, located 6 miles south of Taos. The theme, "The Seed: Past, Present and Future," was well-received by attendees and we were pleased that our decision to pay expenses for out-of-state keynote speakers (author Thor Hanson and Dr. Julie Etterson) was worthwhile. Most everyone thought the location was perfect, and the weather cooperated beautifully. The chapter board decided that some of the money raised from book sales and the silent auction will be used to fund two \$250 grants to Taos County teachers for the next few years. Money will also be spent on improving our greenhouse for future seedling sales in Taos.
2. **Demonstration Gardens:**
 - a. In front of Brodsky's bookstore on Paseo del Pueblo Sur: Cleaned up and signs installed, purchased in 2016 with a grant from Los Jardineros, the Garden Club of Taos. Kathryn Mayer oversaw monthly maintenance.
 - b. The front and courtyard gardens at Millicent Rogers Museum were cleaned up in the spring, old plantings inventoried, and new wildflowers planted (some purchased, others from our greenhouse). Permanent plant identification signage was installed, purchased in 2016 with a grant from Los Jardineros, the Garden Club of Taos.
3. **A Herbarium** established about 13 years ago by NPS members and colleagues (for the serious botanists and students) is housed at the SMU-Fort Burgwin Campus, where it is overseen by Dr. John Ubelaker, SMU professor emeritus.

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4. **Publicity:** “The Wonderful World of Native Plants,” a monthly column written by Charlene Rose Johnson, appears in the House & Garden section of the Taos News. Articles cover upcoming meetings and other activities and often feature a native plant. In addition, we maintain a Facebook page, [Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter](#), to which we post announcements of upcoming events, links to articles of interest, and photographs.
5. **Greenhouse:** Our greenhouse has been inactive for the past two years. As there is little air circulation within the greenhouse, seedlings were being lost at a high rate starting in May due to high temperatures. Money raised from book sales and the silent auction at the annual meeting will be used to remedy this problem in 2018 with the addition of shade cloth and perhaps a solar powered fan.
6. **Project to promote local awareness of noxious and invasive species.** The NPSNM Taos board was invited to the initial meeting convened by Taos Soil & Water Conservation District on a proposed partnership of TSWCD, Taos Town Council, Taos County Commission, US Forest Service & BLM to promote awareness of the proliferation of noxious and invasive species. Two members of the Taos board attended. A copy of Bob Sivinski’s Thistle booklet was taken and shown. SWCD has offered to get bids for printing and submit for funding.

- Submitted by Jan Martenson, President