Man the Lifeboats

Cleanup rally helps clean up mess from government shutdown of public land agencies.

George Miller

After 35 days of government shutdown with no services, protection, or maintenance for public lands, New Mexico Wild put out the call for help. I received an email-blast asking for volunteers to clean up litter at Rinconada Canyon trail at the Petroglyph National Monument. Mayor Tim Keller, Senator Martin Heinrich, and Representative Deb Haaland pledged to be there to share their concerns and support for the furloughed federal workers and the public lands they supervise.

I arrived at the trailhead, just off Unser Blvd., 15 minutes early and cars already packed the small parking lot and spilled down the side street. New Mexico Wild had four posters for us to sign to show our appreciation for the four federal public land agencies in NM, as well as water, gloves, tee-shirts, and pick-up grabbers for litter.

Right on time, the elected official showed up and took center stage—standing on the picnic table. “We expected 20 people and 200 showed up! That shows how much we love our public lands in New Mexico,” Mayor Keller said to the enthusiastic crowd. “Albuquerque can brag about being the number one city in the nation for preserved open space per capita.”

Representative Haaland and Senator Heinrich followed with short but rousing speeches praising the federal workers who manage and protect our public national forests, monuments, parks, and BLM land. Heinrich recently presented a bill to upgrade Bandelier and White Sands National Monuments to National Parks. Representative Haaland pledged her support for protecting fragile public lands from over-exploitation for gas, oil, and mining. Then New Mexico Wild handed out 100 single-use plastic bags and people scattered out across the landscape. In dark times, even a few bright lights offer much needed and appreciated hope.
Citizen Science

Janet Herbst

Curiosity. Observe. Compare. Monitor. Predict. Conclude. These can lead to informed action. It’s about citizen science: real fast, real time collective research conducted by the masses. It’s one way to keep up with changes experienced and exposed on our planet.

Sharmen Apt Russell, instructor, author, citizen scientist, and speaker at the September 2018 Native Plant Society’s Annual Conference hosted by the Gila Chapter in Silver City assured us that humans will not become redundant. Unlike computers, we have the facility of pattern recognition. It’s something our brains are really good at, it’s inherent. We have evolved this aptitude and now we have many opportunities to use this capacity to advance scientific knowledge and solve problems.

The opportunities are two-fold; one, as Sharmen Russell notes, we can now transform at any time of life and become something new. The dentist becoming the world’s leading expert on hummingbirds, for example. Citizen science empowers people, informs people and engages them, Sharmen tells us. And two, through her process contributing to current knowledge about tiger beetles described in her book, Diary of a Citizen Scientist; Chasing Tiger Beetles and Other New Ways of Engaging the World, she has a Zen-like moment at home among her beetle subjects. She feels no separation. She feels herself a bit of everything, “molecules swirling, the dance of matter and energy in our separate forms.” Following one’s curiosity about a subject is often an inner journey as well.

Participation in a project can be a family activity. A project can be time limited such as National Geographic’s 2011 bioblitz in which over 5,000 people fanned out in the Saguaro National Park in Arizona for 24 hours; adding more than 400 species to park lists, including almost 200 species of invertebrates and 205 species of fungus previously unknown in the park. The historic National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count (begun in 1900) lasts for 3 weeks, December 14 through January 5 is another example of a time-limited project. Amateur astronomers are often in the news as being first to capture the light of distant exploding stars or other notable events. And this is an accidental moment while enjoying their subject of study!

Anybody, backed by scientific data and facts contributed by themselves and other concerned citizens, who have personal stories to bring to the table helping to shape public policy are effective. This is what citizen science can bring.
The SciStarter website, [https://scistarter.com](https://scistarter.com) lists over 1,100 current projects to look into and Wikipedia has a list of hundreds of projects with the sponsoring organizations. If you give of your time, use of your sight, wear on your boots, tension in your shoulders, your reward may surprise you. Sharmen Apt Russell asks herself, “What am I going to study today?”

**President’s message**

**George Miller**

The Albuquerque chapter welcomed the new year with a first (in my memory) — we cancelled the January meeting. Frigid, icy weather was a threat citywide, not to mention the uncertainty and danger to our speaker Tim Hankins who had to travel from Socorro. His presentation on wildflowers of Socorro County will be rescheduled either for the late spring or fall. Adding to the confusion, the government shutdown may require shuffling our March presentation on the BLM restoration programs by BLM botanist Zoe Davidson and BLM conservation specialist Ella Samuel. Stay tuned for details.
On a more hopeful note, we have an exciting and diverse set of programs and field trips lined up for the year. We’ll learn about medicinal plants, early women botanists, NM badlands, insect-plant coevolution, and more. Our field trips include close-by, day-long, and overnight excursions. We will explore the Sandia foothills and crest, Manzano Mountains, Zuni Mountains, Ojito Wilderness, Valle Caldera, San Lorenzo Canyon, Mt. Taylor, and have tentative plans for the Florida Mountains (weather dependent) and White Sands Missile Range (government dependent.)

As usual, volunteer opportunities abound. We have a full lineup of events where we set up our table and engage people on the importance of native plants—and how fun our events are! We’ll be at Earth Day events, Bee City and pollinator events, National Public Gardens Day, HerbFest at the Rio Grande Nature Center, and Valle de Oro and Bosque del Apache festivals. Tabling events start in February with the Bee Keepers Conference (including two of our members as speakers), and continue to the fall Festival of Cranes. Watch for announcements about dates.

Don’t forget about volunteering to help with our monthly meeting refreshments. Everyone loves our meeting goodies, and the gracious people who bring them (reimbursement available.)

Our conservation committee, a dedicated group headed by Sue Small, will continue its rigorous pace this year. The group will be working to preserve the Little Canyon watershed in the Zuni Mountains and with projects and planning with several U. S. Forest Service cooperatives.

With our monthly programs, 17 scheduled field trips, and 10 tabling events, we hope you’ll take every opportunity to get involved, make new friends, and learn about the importance of native plants in our everyday lives.

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**Lawn to Wildflowers Project Survey**

Dr. Nash Turley is a researcher at University of Central Florida and the coordinator of the Lawn to Wildflowers Project (https://lawntowildflowers.org/). This is a citizen-science project to turn grass lawns into pollinator-friendly wildflower habitats. They are conducting a scientific survey to understand people’s thoughts and opinions about lawns, wildflowers, and pollinators. This is a first step in our project that will build our basic understanding of what factors prevent regular people from planting wildflowers and it will also help guide our marketing as our project grows.

Please take the survey by following this link: https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMUN5uMXUuggbK!

Thank you for your time. Dr. Nash Turley, Lawn to Wildflowers Project, Department of Biology, University of Central Florida

*Thank you, Tom Stewart, for sending this. The survey only took me a few minutes to take!* dks
Growing Natives from Seed

Diane Stevenson

I can’t think of a better place to be on a Saturday morning in January than at the Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque’s program. It featured Mike Halverson, the manager of the Pueblo of Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery (www.santaana.org) with a talk titled “From Seeds to Needs.”

Mike talked about how they grow native plants in the wholesale nursery for restoration projects with government agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and recent restoration work at the Aztec Ruins National Monument near Farmington, NM.

It was a nice follow-up to the NPS Albuquerque Chapter participation in a restoration planting workshop held last May at the Pueblo of Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery, featured in our Summer 2018 newsletter. For this event, Mike brought many native plants in different specialized growing pots, demonstrating their winter aspect. A show-and-tell about native plant growing, New Mexico style.
Mike talked about the Aztec Ruins National Monument restoration project, in which they worked with the National Park Service staff to collect seed from the area where a 900-year-old ancestral Pueblo society lived. Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery staff grew the seed in their greenhouses and then returned the plants to the site, where supervised volunteers, park staff, and others planted them in raised native plant islands in local soil above the archaeological sites.

Mike discussed how they stratify, or treat seeds to simulate and enhance natural conditions to propagate, germinate, and grow New Mexico native plants. Different plants require different stratification techniques. Cold stratification, or vernalization, is the period of time when a seed must experience cold moist ‘winters’ before or as they germinate. Other stratification methods include fire, required by Bristlecone pines. Acid stratification simulates the seed going through the digestive systems of birds and bears, for example; scarification is mechanically wearing off of the seed coat by wind and abrasion. Desert willows’ winged seed do not require any stratification at all.

Other important aspects of growing native seeds include pot sizes and growing media. New Mexico natives don’t like peat moss or fertilizers and soil amendments. The best part of the program was listening to this veteran grower talk about the many native New Mexico plants and their features. From night pollinators, wildlife habitat features, slope, aspect, and elevation, to soil preferences, historic uses, and plant idiosyncrasies. Of course, I’m a bit biased as a grower and native plant enthusiast.

To learn more about the Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque, check out their website: [www.xericgardenclub.org](http://www.xericgardenclub.org)

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**Plant Profile**

**Birdbill Dayflower**
*Commelina dianthifolia*
Spiderwort Family, Commelinaceae

**Con artists in the plant world.**

George Miller

Deception and cheating, well established in Washington, with used car salesmen, and even in libraries (you can’t judge a book by its cover), is also a well established strategy in the plant world. Even the most innocuous-looking plant can’t be trusted if you’re a pollinator. Visitors to the dainty birdbill dayflower, *Commelina dianthifolia*, in the Spiderwort family, are in for a disappointing surprise.

Stems of this woodland plant in the western two-thirds of NM reach 10-inches tall and bear flowers with three delicate, bright-blue petals that open in the morning and fade by afternoon. The flowers are nestled in a purse-like sack (spathe) with a long, leaf-like tapered tip and usually reddish stripes, and bloom one at a time. The petals are all identical, but the top three stamens differ in shape and function from the bottom three.
This dayflower developed a frugal pollination strategy that goes to extreme measures to save energy. First, it produces no nectar reward for pollinators. It relies solely on visual attraction enhanced by the contrast between bright yellow pollen and deep blue petals and filaments. Next, it deploys showy “dummy anthers” that produce no, or little, pollen.

Three glamorous, upper stamens (staminodes) have short filaments and anthers (antherodes) with six bright yellow lobes that mimic large amounts of pollen. The paired upper and lower lobes on each anther are large and inviting, but sterile. Only the two nubby center lobes produce a small amount of pollen with limited viability (lower nutrition for pollinators?). The three lower stamens with longer filaments and oval anthers produce abundant yellow pollen for cross pollination.

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**Conservation Corner**

**Sue Small**

Along with members of the Forest Stewards Guild, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness, four members of the ABQ chapter NPSNM, Sue Small, Pam McBride, Charlie Jackson, and Jim McGrath went on two monitoring trips in October and November to stream areas in the Zuni Mountains. We collected water quality and quantity data along with weather information. These monitoring sites are home to the endangered Zuni Bluehead Sucker as well as having many native plants such as the threatened Zuni fleabane¹. Jim was the stalwart member of the group as he volunteered to lie on the wet ground holding the pH meter and water temperature gauges in the cold streams. Pam was the data transcriber, and Charlie braved the waist deep pools trying to locate the sediment traps. Sue took photos, a very warm, easy assignment. These data are part of a long term study documenting flora and fauna conditions in the Zuni Mountains.

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More Conservation News

A SUMMARY OF THE CANDELARIA NATURE PRESERVE PUBLIC MEETING – JANUARY 30, 2019

Jim McGrath

A public meeting was held in the Education building at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for the purpose of gathering ideas of what the Candelaria Nature Preserve should look like. Input from citizens was sought by the City of Albuquerque Open Space, City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the proposed Nature Preserve and the consultants hired to determine how to create this nature preserve on lands that are currently used as cropland. The proposed wildlife preserve stems from an Albuquerque City Council Resolution to create a Resource Management Plan for the proposed preserve. TAG chairman Brian Hanson made some introductory remarks, consultant Ken Romig discussed the history and consultant David Lightfoot discussed the ecological conditions of the site.

Certain important points were made regarding limitations that must be addressed in developing the resource management plan. The likely funding source for developing the preserve will be the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). There are two limiting requirements of the LWCF that affect the development of the preserve: 1) a limit on how much of the proposed land can be devoted to commercial farming and 2) there must be some level of public access on the preserve.

The meeting was then broken down into smaller groups designed to gather input from the public on 3 topics: 1) ecological and wildlife considerations, 2) public access and recreation and 3) the farming component of the preserve. The idea was to gather ideas from citizens on how to manage the preserve with respect to these three components.

I personally visited only the ecology and wildlife group as I was interested in how the preserve could be created from what is now entirely cropland. The most important factor affecting the strategy for development of the preserve is water.

The site is on the Rio Grande floodplain, but the floodplain is no longer connected to the river itself as it once was prior to the development of levees, drains and jetty jacks. In addition, the water table is about 10 feet below the ground surface. So not only is water limited, but it will only become worse given the likelihood of continued drought as a result of climate change in the southwest. Consultant David Lightfoot pointed out that during 3 recent years there was essentially no water in the Rio Grande that could be used to feed wetlands on the proposed preserve. Therefore, Mr. Lightfoot believes that most of the preserve should emphasize herbaceous and shrubby vegetation that are adapted to dry conditions. Mr. Lightfoot is interested in certain plants that would attract pollinators and those shrubs, grasses and forbs that would most likely be compatible with climate change.

Input from the public will again be sought at a second public meeting in mid-June 2019.

Candelaria Nature Preserve Discovery Hikes are scheduled for February 23 and March 23, 9:00 a.m. to Noon.
Book Roundup

Lee Regan, Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM new book salesman

Are you ready for Spring? Whether your plans include hiking in the hills or working in your backyard, you may want to consider purchasing some flower books at NPS-member discounted prices.

For newcomers, Common Southwestern Native Plants ($18), by Jack Carter and others in a new third edition, is a great introduction using color photos and line illustrations for plants across our whole region. Even long-time residents will find its coverage of shrubs and trees a valuable resource.

Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico ($24), by Larry Littlefield and Pearl Burns, is an indispensable identification guide to more than 350 plants. Short descriptions are accompanied by three to five photos of the whole plant, the leaves and flowering detail.

Plant stories of the Chihuahuan Desert ($10) by Tom Hayden, is a brief introduction to cacti and other plants featured in the Desert Arboretum at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. An assortment of gardening aids are also available, such as George Miller's Landscaping with native plants of the Southwest ($20.)

Wow! A New Website for New Mexico Wildflowers

George Oxford Miller has a new website titled “Wildflowers of New Mexico”

www.wildflowersnm.com

It includes photos, of course, wildflower descriptions of over 525 species with range maps, botanical descriptions, key characteristics for identification aids, as well as references and an illustrated glossary.

You can search for wildflowers using color and flower cluster type and leaf arrangement. Index pages list plants by common name, species name, and by plant family.

Learn plant identification (ID) in New Mexico digitally!

George will update the site periodically.

Thank you for your beautiful work, George! dks
Judith Phillips told the NPSNM Albuquerque board about these citizen science events in our area. What a great Community we live in!

Mark your calendars! April 26-29, 2019 is the first City Nature Challenge: ABQ! Over four days, our community will be competing with more than 130 other communities across the world to make and share observations of nature. Learn more here: [http://citynaturechallenge.org/](http://citynaturechallenge.org/) and [https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2019-abq](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2019-abq)

It is easy to participate. Just download the iNaturalist app and make observations within the ABQ boundaries (Bernalillo County) during the time window. The beauty of iNaturalist is that you can contribute an observation of flora or fauna even if you don't know what it is. Just take a picture and the iNaturalist community will help identify it. Encourage your friends and family to participate! This is an opportunity for native plant lovers to document early blooming wildflowers, natives in our gardens and along trails, the wealth of our local ecosystems.

Until the event check out postings of public events where you can join other naturalists and scientists in locating and identifying wildlife at citynaturechallengeABQ2019 on facebook. 'Like' our page to stay tuned!

Valle de Oro Backyard Refuge Certification Program

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is one of more than 20 partners with the Friends of Valle de Oro on a program modeled on several existing habitat certification programs. The idea is to make Albuquerque a checkerboard habitat extension of Valle de Oro. The program has kicked off with the partners are contributing local information and expertise to encourage property owners to make wildlife integral to their lives including a guide to creating habitat with sections on the value of native habitat and public lands, wildlife as part of the community, life zones and the migratory corridor, attracting wildlife (as well as friendly exclusion of nuisance wildlife), bird and pollinator friendly practices, watershed protections including green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), removal of invasive plant species, habitat value of native plants, design and management strategies for backyard refuges and criteria for participating in the certification program.

The Guide will be an excellent primer for all levels of interest in wildlife and developing habitat with a particularly local focus. The original launch date is April 1, 2019 for the digital version, but federal furloughs may have a significant impact on the timing. Stay tuned for updates!

A Good News Link:

Heinrich talks plants:  One senator who is not suffering from plant blindness!

Albuquerque Chapter Newsletter Index & Review

Diane Stevenson

Since the Autumn 2016 issue of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) Albuquerque Chapter Newsletter, I’ve had the pleasure of putting together the newsletter. The newsletters all have gorgeous photos of native plants, wildland scenes, insects, and more. They contain great articles about speaker presentations, field trips, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, activities, book reviews, native plant nursery overviews, as well as membership information, meeting and activity calendars and website links.

The Albuquerque Chapter newsletters are available at the [www.NPSNM.org](http://www.NPSNM.org) website to download as pdf files (or mailed through the USPS if you let me know.) I find myself returning to them often.

The following summary may help you find the article you’re looking for.

**Autumn 2016**
A great article about Ron Coleman’s talk on Native Orchids of New Mexico, a write-up about the Las Cruces State NPSNM Conference, field trip photos, and links for pollinators and other ecosystem services providers.

**Winter 2017**
We implemented the well-planned Pollinator Habitat Design Workshop held in February. This newsletter has many websites for pollinators and their habitat, several book reviews, a plant profile of the Pasque Flower, as well as the field trips and speakers planned for the calendar year.

**Spring 2017**
This newsletter features spring Albuquerque Chapter Community Outreach events and volunteer opportunities. Articles include encouragement to plant trees and grow your own native plants. There is a great pictorial spring pollinator plant ‘welcome mat’, two native plant nursery overviews, and an introduction to the Yerba Mansa Project at the Rio Grande Nature Center. And more!

**Summer 2017**
Feature articles include moon gardens, night pollinators, and invasive species in New Mexico. Fairy Slipper is the plant profile. And conservation news, new books, as well as the remaining field trips and speakers. The 2017 NPSNM annual conference is in September in Taos. Beautiful!
**Autumn 2018**

Articles include a well-attended field trip to El Malpais National Monument in late August, a visit to McFadden fire lookout, a flower and seed photo matching quiz, a plant profile of the Desert Willow and a search for a photogenic specimen. Celebration of 20 years of National Wildlife Refuges in New Mexico, and an indoor herb garden without pollinators in Chicago are features.

**Winter 2018**

A beautiful full page photo of El Morro National Monument covers this newsletter. Featured is the 2017 Central New Mexico Gardens: A Native Plant Selection Guide updated with pollinator information and available to download from the NPSNM.org website. The Showy Milkweed is featured in the plant profile, thanking pollinators, climate, flower/pollinator relationships, and Origami art.

**Spring 2018**

The biggest issue yet, 22 pages of volunteer activities, field trips, NPSNM 2018 Science Teacher award and garden tour, Sego and Mariposa Lilies, trees used in stormwater management, and plenty of beautiful photos! The upcoming speaker and field trip calendar makes one really want to get outside.

**Summer 2018**

Wow! The photos – Magdalena Mountain flowers, the Ojito Wilderness, White Sands giant alligator juniper! This issue contains conservation updates, volunteer thank yous for participation, native plant island restoration technique workshop on sensitive sites, and recipes/tips for harvesting and preparing prickly pear cacti. Canada Violet is the plant profile, and much, much more.

A note about the fall and winter newsletters from the editor: Due to my father’s failing health and subsequent passing, I was unable to publish a fall 2018 newsletter. This issue is late, as I write in eastern Oklahoma while overseeing tornado cleanup. Yes, when it rains, it pours. And some things just get blown away (no one was hurt in storm, but that’s another story.) Thank you for your patience!

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**From the USGS Earth Science Week Update e-mail listserve:**

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Resources for Teachers from Kindergarten through college. And Citizen Scientists too!  

Here is a page of Videos from the National Park Service on climate topics:  
[https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/photosmultimedia.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/photosmultimedia.htm)

Counting the days to spring? Map it on the USA National Phenology Network website:  
[https://www.usanpn.org/](https://www.usanpn.org/)
Scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque.

For more information on programs, contact Jim McGrath at 505-286-8745 or sedges “at” swcp.com

March 6. Meeting. “BLM New Mexico Plant Conservation & Restoration Program.” BLM NM State Botanist Zoe Davidson and BLM Plant Conservation Program Specialist Ella Samuel describe the programs administered by the United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) pertaining to the management and conservation of native plants on BLM lands in New Mexico. Zoe discusses management obstacles associated with rare species and provides information on the ways the public can help protect rare plants. She discusses the mission of the BLM at large, policy affecting management practices, and the BLM’s vegetation monitoring program—Assessment Inventory and Monitoring (AIM). In addition, Ella provides input on the BLM’s efforts to expand plant materials development in New Mexico in preparation for restoration initiatives. Prepare to learn about monitoring, managing, and conserving native plants on over 13 million acres of public lands in New Mexico!

April 3. Meeting. Restoration along the Rio Grande through the Pueblo of Santa Ana: the Natural and Un-Natural Journey to the Present. Nathan Schroeder has served the Pueblo as the Restoration Division Manager for 11 years managing natural resources within the historic Rio Grande and Rio Jemez floodplain. He will briefly discuss Santa Ana’s history and the ecology of pre-dam rivers and the riparian vegetation in the middle Rio Grande river valley followed by a discussion of the changes humans have made to the land. Nathan will conclude by highlighting some completed ecological projects at Santa Ana intended to conserve some of the natural function and beauty of river and bosque.

May 1. Meeting. “Native Medicinal Plants for Albuquerque Gardens.” Join Dara Saville of Albuquerque Herbalism for an exploration of beautiful and easily cultivated native plants to create your own medicinal herb garden. We'll discuss preferred growing conditions as well as how and when to harvest, ways to prepare them as remedies, and the healthful uses for these herbs. We'll also have some sample herbal remedies for those who would like to get inspired and experience them first-hand.
June 5. Meeting. “San Juan Basin Badlands National Monument and National Scenic Byway – The Time is Now.” Longtime New Mexico backcountry hiker, high desert guide and environmental activist Mike Richie presents a scientific overview of the 15 discrete, far flung San Juan Basin Badlands, including basin geology, paleontology, ecology, conservation and recreational topics. Additional up-to-date information will focus on the economics and politics of the ongoing “San Juan Basin Sustainable Tourism Development Plan” which includes the badlands, Chaco Canyon and the US Highway 550 corridor. Responsible tourism enables us to preserve our state’s rich and diverse natural heritage and cultures while enhancing an important contribution to our sustainable economic base. The presentation will be profusely illustrated with maps, diagrams and photos.

July 3. Meeting. To be Determined

August. No monthly meeting. NPSNM State Conference August 2-4, 2019 in Santa Fe, NM, on the campus of the Institute of American Indian Arts

September 4. Meeting. To be Determined

October 2. Meeting. “Wildflowers of Socorro County.” New Mexico Tech Emeritus Professor of Physics and avid wildflower photographer Tim Hankins takes us on a wildflower photo tour. Socorro County’s 6,649 square mile range over habitats including the Rio Grande Valley, the Quebradas, the Plains of San Agustin, and part of the Cibola National Forest with mountains up to nearly 11,000 feet. The varied terrain supports a diverse set of wildflowers. Tim will present a photographic collection of wildflowers from a variety of accessible locations in the county, starting at the lowest elevations near the Rio Grande and climbing to the top of Mt. Baldy in the Magdalena Mountains. Some of the flowers are easy to find, and some he has seen only once in the 30 years he has been hiking around the county.

November 6. Meeting. To be Determined

December 7 or 14. Annual holiday potluck and officers election. Saturday, 11am-2 pm. Pam McBride’s House, 5409 9th St. NW. Pam will provide some vegetarian posole. Everyone bring a dish to share. From I-25 going north, take the Comanche/Griegos exit. Go west to 4th street, turn right, go to the next traffic light at Douglas MacArthur and turn left. Go to 9th street and turn north. Our driveway is just past a small dirt road, Juanita Lane, on the left. The house is straight back. Park on 9th street and walk in.
Meeting places for field trips (codes A through H) are described in detail at the end of the schedule. Field trip participants should bring water, hat, sunscreen, snacks or lunch, rain gear and appropriate clothing to deal with poor weather conditions.

Some field trips may be announced with only 1 week to a month notice. Spring field trips depend upon good winter and spring precipitation; therefore, such field trips may be scheduled when we know wildflowers will be present.

Please be aware that all field trip participants must sign the NPSNM liability release form before departure. Leaders should have forms available on site for those who have not signed one previously this year.

April 13: Pine Flats to see Pasque Flowers with Gary Runyan and Doris Eng, trip leaders. Six miles south of Tijeras we will find Pasque flowers on the edges of the picnic ground. A one mile loop excursion reveals other locations and Easter Daisies. For those who want a day trip we will stop for lunch at Sabino Canyon on the way back. Meet at 9:00 at "A" (SW corner of Smith's parking lot Tramway & Central).

April 20: Volcanoes loop walk, Petroglyph National Monument. George Miller leader. PNM has 20,000 ancient images of rock art carved into the volcanic boulder that line the mesas, but we will concentrate on the nearly 200 wildflowers that bloom in the 7,000 acres of undisturbed desert. We start at the Volcanoes parking lot trailhead off Paseo del Volcan on the west side of the preserve and loop through the desert to see what we can see. If spring rains are generous, we may find 30 or more species. Meet at 8 a.m., meeting place A (Saver's parking lot, Menaul & Candelaria), or at 8:15 a.m. at the Volcanoes parking lot.

April 27. A Tour of the Pueblo of Santa Ana’s Bosque. Nathan Schroeder, Restoration Division Manager for Santa Ana, will lead a tour of the bosque highlighting some of the past ecological projects. We will begin at the Hyatt Spa and Resort’s parking lot and walk through some of the Pueblo’s first projects within a grassland buffer to the bosque. He will discuss some of the techniques used in management of the tribal natural resources. Throughout the tour, Nathan will discuss the successes and setbacks of this work and challenges for the future. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Spa and Resort parking lot. Car poolers meet at 8:15 a.m. at "G".


Photo © Diane Stevenson
May 16 or 18 (TBD): Field Trip to White Sands Missile Range Stallion Loop. David Anderson leader. Meet at WSMR south of Socorro at Stallion Gate at 9:00 a.m./10:00 a.m. Sample a variety of vegetation communities at Mockingbird Gap, Malpais Springs (home of endangered pup fish), Gyp Dunes, and Alkaline Flats. End tour at Stallion Gate about 3:00 p.m./4:00 p.m. for return to Albuquerque. Preregistration is required by April 20 (carolconoboy “at” gmail.com). Driver’s license name, (cell) phone number, transportation needs, email and planned meeting place. Meet at G at 7:00 a.m./8:00 a.m., or at Stallion Gate at 9:00 a.m./10:00 a.m.

May 25: Seismosaurus Trail, Ojito Wilderness field trip with Lenore Goodall, trip leader. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in Bernalillo at the northwest corner of the Home Depot parking lot on 550 north of town. Drive about 20 miles on 550 to Cabezon Road. Drive 10 miles on Cabezon Road to the Seismosaurus Trailhead. We will probably make some quick stops along the way to look at some plants not on the mesa. The out and back trail of 2.4 miles is fairly easy walking on a mesa with expansive views and interesting and colorful rock formations. Although there are a few junipers and oaks there is very little shade. Typically, we may find a good many flowers usually including Asclepias involucrata, Evolvulus nuttallianus, Malacothrix fendleri, Polygala alba, Tetraneuris scaposa, Townsendia annua, Tradescantia occidentalis as well as various cacti. At the end of the trail there are some beautiful petroglyphs on the cliff edge. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, raingear. Return 1:30 p.m.

June 2: Native Medicinal Plant Walk: Join Herbalist Dara Saville for an easy stroll around the gardens and grounds of Bachechi Open Space to learn about native medicinal plants of our area. We'll look at the pollinator garden and Bosque habitats to explore the plants that are most useful for our health and well-being. We'll discuss harvesting, herbal actions, preparations, cultivation, and a little plant ecology along the way. Meet at the Bachechi Open Space Education Building at 11 a.m. Sunday June 2. We will walk for about 2 hours and note-taking types may wish to bring a notebook and pencil. Parking next to the building is limited and overflow parking is available at the adjacent Alameda Open Space, which is accessed from Alameda Blvd, just west of Rio Grande Blvd.

June 8: Tecolote Trail. Pam McBride (505-343-9472), trip leader. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at “A”. The Tecolote Trail is an easy 2.6 mile roundtrip walk between 8,630 & 8,810 feet elevation. The trail goes to Tecolote Peak where there are 360° views. The trail initially has several broad switchbacks to attain the modest gain in elevation up a slope to reach the ridge top. Along the way, there are views of the Crest Highway below and the Sandia Peak Ski Area to the west. A noteworthy and beautiful plant that we are likely to see in bloom is Bigelow leatherflower (Clematis bigelovii), a striking bell-shaped purple clematis. Other plants in flower we will probably be the more common Rocky Mountain clematis (Clematis Columbiana), Alumroot (Heuchera parviflora), ground cone (Conopholis alpina var. Mexicana), bastard toadflax (Commandra umbellata; a very unpleasant common name for a beautiful plant), both spotted and striped coral root, and of course, Indian paintbrush. Bring lunch, sunscreen, raingear, etc. We should be back at the Smith’s parking lot by 3:00 p.m.
June 16 (Sunday): Sandia Foothills Plants and Flowers, Tom Stewart, trip leader. A great diversity of flowering native plants await discovery, easily accessed between Albuquerque’s suburbs and the Sandia Mountains. Some modest uphill walking will reveal at least 25 species and great views. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the open space trailhead at the east end of Copper NE. Bring water, sunscreen, etc.

June 29: Oxbow Trail, Rio Grande Corridor, trip leader Lenore Goodall. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Pueblo Montano Parking Area (one block east of Coors Blvd. on the south side of Montaño). Hike of 2.8 mile round-trip walking along drain bank shaded by cottonwoods to an area to comb for flowers along the river bank. We could find Anemopsis californica, Desmanthus illinoensis, Sagittaria cuneata, Zeltnera calycosa as well as various rushes, sedges and grasses. Prepare for marshy conditions. Bring insect repellent, snack, water, and sunscreen. Return at noon.

Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM Proposed Field Trips July – Oct. 2019

- July 6: open
- July 13: Crest Spur Trail-Sandias with Doris
- July 20: open
- July 27: Red Canyon with Tom
- **August 3: NPSNM Annual Meeting in Santa Fe**
- August 10: Mt. Taylor with George and Doris
- August 17: open
- August 24: Valle San Antonio-Valles Caldera with Lenore
- August 31: open
- Sept 7: Florida Mountains and Pony Hills with Gene Jercinovic (tentative, details TBD)
- Sept 14: open
- Sept 21: San Lorenzo Canyon, Jim
- Sept 28: open
- Oct 5 or 12: (Grasses with Jim)

MEETING PLACES FOR FIELD TRIPS

A. SW corner of Smith’s parking lot at Tramway and Central.

B. NE corner of Wal-Mart parking lot on the east side of Coors about 0.25 miles north of I-40.

C. Albertson’s parking lot at Tramway and Academy. Park along east wall.

D. Far North Shopping Center at San Mateo and Academy. Park near Wienerschnitzel.
E. Placitas. Parking lot of grocery store in Homesteads Village Shopping Center. Directions: I-25 north from ABQ to exit 242 (second exit at Bernalillo). Turn right and go east on Hwy 165 for approx. 5 miles to shopping center in Placitas on left. To car pool to Placitas, meet at D (Far North Shopping Center site).

F. Michael Emery Trailhead Parking Lot. Go east to the end of Spain Road (east of Tramway). At “T” intersection turn right and go 0.1 mile and turn left into parking lot.

G. Saver's parking lot) on Carlisle on NE side of Carlisle/Menaul intersection. Park behind Mattress Firm in SW corner of lot.

H. Los Lunas. SW corner of Home Depot parking lot by the tool sheds. Directions: From ABQ drive south on I-25 to Exit 203. Head east through 2 traffic lights. Home Depot is on left.

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Articles, photos, and news submissions for the Albuquerque chapter NPSNM Spring Newsletter should be submitted via e-mail to Diane Stevenson by the first day of spring, Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 (distevenson331 “at” hotmail.com). Any mistakes you see in this newsletter are mine. Thank you!

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Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at [http://www.npsnm.org/membership/](http://www.npsnm.org/membership/)

NPSNM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of native New Mexico flora. The Society, and its local chapters, work to educate its members and promote the conservation of our native flora so future generations may enjoy our valuable resource.

**Membership Benefits**

Members benefit from regional chapter meetings, field trips, an annual meeting, and four issues of the state newsletter each year. Some chapters also hold plant sales and annual seed exchanges and offer discounts on a variety of books providing information on native plant identification and gardening with New Mexico native plants.

Additional benefits to members include discounts on New Mexico Wildflower and Cactus posters.

**Albuquerque Chapter Benefits**

Members who show a valid NPSNM membership card

- Qualify for Plant World discounts without having to purchase a Plant World membership
- Receive a 10% discount at Plants of the Southwest
- Receive a 10% discount at Santa Ana Garden Center

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NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter

Current Board of Directors – 2019

- President: George Miller
- Vice President: Tom Stewart
- Program: Jim McGrath
- Secretary: Dara Saville
- Treasurer: Debbie Conger
- Field Trip Coordinator: Carol Conoboy
- State Board Rep.: Bettie Hines
- Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski
- Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson
- Community Outreach: Bettie Hines
- Conservation: Sue Small
- Educational Outreach: Pam McBride

**Core Group (essential volunteers)**

- Books: Lee Regan
- Garden Center Chair: Irene Scotillo
- Communications: Gary Hoe
- Hospitality: Doris Eng
- Invasive Weeds Rep.: Don Heinze
- Publicity: Charlie Jackson
- Habitat Gardening: Virginia Burris
- Refreshments: Penny Hoe