

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
TAOS CHAPTER
2018 Annual Report**

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Landscaping – Brodsky's Bookstore:
Kathryn Mayer

Greenhouse: Kathryn Mayer

Publicity: Board members
Membership: vacant

*** 2018 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 shown in brackets [], average of 25

Mar 21 Beyond Automobiles: Native Plant Stewardship, Revegetation, and Highway Ecology at the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Steven Gisler, Environmental Analysis, NM-DOT [approx. 15]

Apr 18 An Introduction to IDing Common Flower Families. Jan Martenson and Kathryn Mayer [25]

May 16 Wild Buckwheats (Eriogonums) of Northern New Mexico. Bob Pennington, Agua Fria Nursery, Santa Fe [20]

June 20 Project Pine Cone and The Natural History of Pines. Renee Galeano-Popp, The Pine Cone Lady, Livermore, Colorado [37]

Sept 19 New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy. Daniel Roth, PhD, EMNRD – Forestry Division; author, coordinator, and facilitator of the 2017 Rare Plant Conservation Strategy [25]

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Oct 17 **Renewing the Resilience and Productivity of Native Forests.** Mark Schuetz, Watershed Dynamics, LLC, Taos [28]

*** 2018 Field Trips/Hikes/Workshops***

Attendance shown in brackets [], average of 10

- May 5** 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 [4]
- May 6** La Vista Verde hike, led by Jan Martenson [7]
- June 2** Workshop Making Tufa Pots, led by Diane Pola [6]
- June 10** Columbine Canyon hike, led by Kathryn Mayer [13]
- June 23** Workshop: **Conifer Identification** with the Pine Cone Lady, Renee Galeano-Popp [22]
- June 25** Field Trip to PEEC Nature Center, Los Alamos, led by Chick Keller & Larry Deaven of PEEC [6]
- July 14** Amole Canyon hike, led by Jan Martenson [4]
- July 29** Agua Sarca Trail hike, led by Jan Martenson & Kathryn Mayer [20]
- Aug 11** Williams Lake hike, led by Jan Martenson [6]
- Aug 17** New Mexico Native Plant Day. Eight member volunteers assisted with this public outreach offering information and selling native plants & books at Cid's Supermarket in Taos. We netted over \$850 in donations and sales of books, notecards, plants & tattoos.
- Aug 25** Field Trip to Stewart Meadows/Rio San Antonio, led by Cheron Ferland, USFS Wildlife Biologist [13]
- Dec 3** Workshop: **Herbal Allies from a Bioregional Perspective**, led by Sara Digby, NPSNM Outreach Coordinator [14]

*** Projects***

- 1. Taos Grants:** With the proceeds from the silent auction and books sales during the 2017 annual conference, the Taos Chapter board decided to establish annual \$250 grants to local educators.
 - a.** The first awardee was an instructor of Physics and Environmental Science at Taos High School Andy Leonard. Andy will use the grant to jump start the school's AP Environmental Science program by purchasing supplies for students conducting independent research required by the program. Andy was also awarded a hard copy of the grade 9–12 curriculum guide, From Ponderosa to Prickly Pear, courtesy of the Institute of Applied Ecology.
 - b.** A second award was made to Allie Heller, formerly an intern with the Taos office of the BLM who attended last year's NPSNM conference and is now a graduate student at New Mexico State University. Her research project will involve working with the Jornada

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Experimental Range Research Program and soil scientists from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) out of Alamosa, CO, developing Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. She requested funding and/or material support for her field research over the next two summers. We made a long-term loan to her of a microscope and a plant press as well as a cash award of \$140 for the other items.

- 2. Project to promote local awareness of noxious and invasive species:** The NPSNM Taos Chapter, represented primarily by Jim Ludden, has been attending monthly meetings of the committee for the Taos County Cooperative Weed Management Area [branded TWAG – Taos Weed Action Group – for outreach and publicity]. This group was established with the encouragement of County Commissioner Fritz Hahn, to promote awareness of, and develop actions to thwart, the proliferation of noxious and invasive species in the county. Other participants include Town of Taos, Carson National Forest, NMDOT, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, Southern Methodist University/Taos, Amigos Bravos, Taos Land Trust, BLM, and private citizen/educators. We have contributed a NPSNM Coloring Book and a gift certificate for 3 native plant seedlings to winners of a monthly photo contest of noxious weeds.
- 3. Snap That Plant:** Taos received 23 submissions for the photo contest that Sara Digby ran during the summer. Cash prizes were awarded: \$75 to the first place winner and \$25 each to two runners-up. We were pleased that our chapter winner, John Whitman's *Rudbeckia laciniata* with two police-car moths, went on to win first place in the state!
- 4. Demonstration Gardens:**
 - a. In front of Brodsky's bookstore on Paseo del Pueblo Sur: Cleaned up and signs installed. 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.
- 5. Publicity:** "The Wonderful World of Native Plants," a monthly column in the Taos News, is now written by Jan Martenson (the previous writer moved from Taos). Articles cover upcoming meetings and other activities and often feature a native plant. In addition, the chapter has its own Facebook page, [Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter](#), to which we post announcements of upcoming events, links to articles of interest, and photographs.
- 6. Greenhouse:** Seeds were germinated and grown to selling stage by Kathryn Mayer in her own home and greenhouse. A new shade cloth was added to the chapter's greenhouse at the Taos County Ag center, but more work needs to be done (and volunteers recruited) before it can be used for large scale propagation.
- 7. A Herbarium** established about 15 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 and NPSNM/Taos member.

- Submitted by Jan Martenson, President

flora ~ friends ~ fun