

2019 Annual Report – Albuquerque Chapter Native Plant Society of New Mexico

OFFICERS

President: George Miller

Vice President: Tom Stewart

Secretary: Dara Saville

Treasurer: Debbie Conger (Jan.–Sept.)

Program Coordinator: Jim McGrath

Field Trip Coordinator: Carol Conoboy

State Board Representative: Bettie Hines/Judith Phillips

Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson

Conservation Committee: Sue Small, Coordinator

Membership Coordinator: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski

Publicity Coordinator: Charlie Jackson/Irene Warner

Core Group (essential volunteers, invited to board meetings)

Communications: Gary Hoe

Refreshments Coordinator: Gary Hoe

Hospitality: Doris Eng

Invasive Weeds Representative: Don Heinz

Book Sales: Lee Regan

Community Outreach: Bettie Hines

PROGRAMS

Meeting attendance varied between 65–100, averaging about 85.

January 2. Meeting: cancelled due to weather (rescheduled for Oct.)

February 6. Meeting: “Light, Cameras, Actions: using color, imagery, and observational Phenology Data in Aridlands.” Alesia Hallmark, a PhD student in the University of New Mexico’s Biology Department, will share her work using visual data to understand the ephemeral growth patterns of arid grasslands in New Mexico. Alesia will focus on research being conducted at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge and Long-Term Ecological Research site near Socorro, NM. Her research seeks to integrate modern technologies such as flux towers, satellite imagery, meteorological records, and time-lapse photography to answer age-old questions: when do native plants grow, flower, or fail to reproduce?

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 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." 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: "Plant Pollination Strategies: Food, sex, and broken promises." George Miller, president of the Albuquerque chapter of the NPSNM and author of "Landscaping with Native Plants of the Southwest," will explore how plants have evolved to manipulate pollinator behavior not only with pollen and nectar rewards, but also with tricks, stimulants, addiction, deception, and entrapment. Plants and insects have co-evolved for 150 million years to create mutually-dependent physical, chemical, and behavioral systems to insure that sexual reproduction produces seeds, the seeds are dispersed, and the species propagates into the future. But not all plants play fair, and the most creative cheaters almost always win, at least in

the short run in terms of evolution. You can bear witness to much of the deceit and debauchery if you have a native plant habitat garden in your yard.

August: No monthly meeting. Annual meeting Aug 3–4.

September 4: Meeting. "From Global Warming to Ice Caves: How and Why a Coherent Science of Notoriously Vague Things Matters More Than Ever." Geomorphometrist, remote sensing scientist and geographer Charlie Jackson provides examples of climatic objects of North America (1980-2016), maximum entropy species distribution, models of dust storms in the US-Mexico border region and recent 3D reconstructions of ice caves at El Malpais National Monument.

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 6649 square miles 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: "Early Ethnobotanists of the Late 19th and Early to Middle 20th Centuries." Paleoethnobotanist and past President of our Albuquerque chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Pam McBride, will describe her professional field of paleoethnobotany, how botanical materials are retrieved from archaeological sites, their identification, and their interpretation, followed by a discussion of at least four of the pioneering ethnobotanists whose research make interpretation of the past possible. This discussion will include two of the most colorful and controversial ethnobotanists of the late 19th century: Matilda Coxe Stevenson and Frank Hamilton Cushing.

December 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.

FIELD TRIPS

April 13 Field Trip: Pine Flats to see pasque flowers with Gary Runyon 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 boulders 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 G (Saver's parking lot, Menaul & Carlisle), or at 8:15 at the west Volcanoes Access Rd. parking lot off Atrisco Vista (Paseo del Volcan) off I-40 west, exit 149.

April 27 Field Trip: 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. 9:00 am at the Hyatt Spa and Resort parking lot. Car poolers meet at 8:15 at "G".

May 18: Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range Stallion Loop. David Anderson leader. Meet at WSMR south of Socorro at Stallion Gate on Hy 380 at 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 4:00 p.m. for return to Albuquerque. Attendance limited; preregistration required by April 20 (carolconoboy@gmail.com) with name on driver's license, (cell) phone number, transportation needs (carpooling or driving separately), email and where you'll meet us. Carpoolers meet at G at 8:00 a.m. (Savors parking lot, Carlisle & Menaul); others meet at Stallion Gate at 10:00 a.m. Distance to gate from Albq. 100 miles.

May 25 Field Trip: Seismosaurus Trail, Ojito Wilderness field trip with Lenore Goodall, trip leader. Meet at 8:15am 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 mi. 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 1:30pm.

June 2 Field Trip: 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 11am, 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. Field Trip: Tecolote Trail. Canceled due to trail construction

June 16 (Sunday). Field Trip: 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. We will meet on the east end of the Albertson's parking lot at Tramway and Academy at 8:30, and carpool to minimize parking fees. Bring water, sunscreen.

June 29. Field Trip: Oxbow Trail, Rio Grande Corridor. (Cancelled due top flooded trail.)

July 13. Field trip: Sandia Crest Spur trail. Leader Doris Eng. Starting at the Crest House parking lot, the moderately strenuous trail drops below the crest into a ponderosa-Douglas fir transition forest. Monument plants, paintbrushes, Townsend's daisies, yellow sky pilot, red columbines, clematis, and the endemic Sandia coral bells line the trail as it winds below the rim to the Tram station. Returning through the spruce-fir forest we'll look for Jacob's ladder, towering fernleaf lousewort, and three species of penstemons. Four-mile round trip, rocky uneven trail with ups and downs, incredible views. Activity moderately strenuous: 4-mile round trip, uneven trail. Meeting place A, 8 a.m., return about 3 p.m. Bring lunch.

July 27. Red Canyon in the Manzanos. Leaders: Tom Stewart & Doris Eng. This hike begins at Red Canyon Campground which is reached by turning south on Forest Road 253 at the southern edge of the small town of Manzano off N.M. 14. The trail follows alongside and crosses a small stream several times. We may make it to where the trail leaves the drainage at 1.71 miles onto a sloping plateau and just a little bit further to good views to the east, but we are usually so caught up with admiring wildflowers, that we rarely make it quite so far. In the past we have been dazzled by pine drops,

Sandia alum root, birdbeak, harebell, Mexican hat, cut-leaf coneflower, dayflower, and rattlesnake orchid among many others. We'll probably be back late afternoon, so bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen. Be ready to depart at meeting place A at 7:30 am.

August 10. Field trip: Mt. Taylor. Leader George Miller, Doris Eng. We'll drive to Grants, then take a dirt Forest Service road through spruce-aspen forests to a broad meadow below the summit of Mt. Taylor-expect 1.5-2-hour drive. After botanizing the meadow-Silver lupine, red (instead of yellow) mt. parsley, penstemons; we'll continue a several-miles long ascending trail to the 11,301-foot summit (a good lunch stop). Along the trail we'll look for skyrockets with exceedingly long flower tubes, clumps of the dainty single-delight, and at the top, twin-berry and high-altitude cinquefoils. Activity level moderately strenuous: high elevation, long ascent, uneven trail. Meeting place G, 8 a.m. Bring lunch.

Saturday September 7. Field Trip. San Lorenzo Canyon. 8:00-5:00 (more or less). Leader Jim McGrath. We will explore this unique canyon just south of Sevilleta NWR – about 60 miles south of Albuquerque. In addition to wildflowers we might find in the riparian zone, desert flats, and steep slopes, the canyon has unique twists and turns, picturesque rock formations and even a couple small seeps. This trip will take us into the afternoon with return to Albuquerque around 5:00 pm or so. Bring lunch, lots of water, hat, sunscreen, good hiking shoes and camera. Meet 8:00 am at "G" (SW corner of Saver's lot behind Mattress Firm on Carlisle at Menaul).

September 14: Florida Mountains and Pony Hills with Gene Jercinovic (Cancelled due to leader's ill health)

Saturday September 21. Field Trip. Mesa Chihuilla Badlands. This trip will take us into the afternoon with return to Albuquerque around 5:00 pm or so. Bring lunch, lots of water, hat, sunscreen, good hiking shoes and camera. High clearance vehicles and advanced sign-ups are necessary. Meet 8:00 am at Home Depot in Bernalillo at the northwest corner of the Home Depot parking lot on 550 north of town. Michael Richie, George Miller leaders.

Saturday October 12. Grass Field Trip. 9:00 am – Noon. Leader Jim McGrath. We will re-visit Pueblo Montano Park (the park with the pieces of animal art carved out of tree trunks and logs located on the west side of the Rio Grande on Montano just east of Coors), the site of our 2018 grass field trip. We will learn how to identify common grasses. Last year we learned 25+ grass species. Returning participants will be quizzed to see how well they learned grasses on last year's field trip. We will walk along the drain toward San Antonio Oxbow. Meet at Pueblo Montano Park at 9:00 am.

Saturday October 19. Upland Grass Field Trip – Three Gun Spring Trail. 9:00-12:00+. Leader Jim McGrath. Join Jim on his favorite trail in the

Sandia Mountains. We will focus on grasses and perhaps hike about 3 miles through a mixture of juniper, pinon pines, mountain mahogany, beargrass, scrub oak and Apache plume to the base of the steep slope and return via the wash. Participants from the October 12 Grass Field Trip will get a chance to practice what they learned the week before and also learn some new grasses. Bring water, snacks, hat and sunscreen. Meet at 9:00 am at "A" (SW corner of Smith's parking lot on Tramway at Central).

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL (12 events)

Bee Keepers Annual Conference Feb. 2, 3-table

Earth Day, Sandia High School, April 12-table

Earth Day Celebration, Nob Hill, April 20-table

Desert Oasis Teaching Garden Plant Sale, April 27-table

National Public Gardens Day, Albq. Biopark, May 11-table (cancelled-rain)

Herbfest, Rio Grande Nature, Center, May 11-12-table

Rail Yard Market, Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. table

Bee City USA Celebration, Albq. Open Space Center, June 15-table

Western Field Ornithologists Annual Conf. Aug. 23-24-table

Valle de Oro NWR, Refuge Day, Sept. 28-table

Santa Ana Environmental Fair, Sept. 28-table

Festival of the Cranes, Bosque de Apache NWR, Nov. 23-table.