

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO**  
**TAOS CHAPTER**  
**2019 Annual Report**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Jan Martenson  
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Vice President: Kathryn Mayer  
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Treasurer: Jan Martenson

Secretary: vacant

Chapter Rep to State NPS: Jan Martenson

**At-Large Board Member:**

Janet Adams  
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214-682-701; janetdadams@gmail.com

**At-Large Board Member:**

Sarah Bush  
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**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

Landscaping – Millicent Rogers Museum:  
Richard Rubin  
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Landscaping - Brodsky's Bookstore:  
Janet Adams

Greenhouse: Kathryn Mayer

Publicity: Board members

Membership: vacant

**\* 2019 Monthly Meetings with Speakers \***

*Our talks are videotaped, with permission of the speaker, by Dreaming Butterfly Productions LLC [Sally Savage, MBA, Taos, NM; (575) 613-5499; mountain\_spirit\_@hotmail.com]. The videos are published on YouTube and can be found at this link: [tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos](http://tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos)*

*Attendance shown in brackets [ ], average of 37*

**Mar 20 Ecological Restoration Projects at Rio Fernando Park.** Ben Wright, Education and Land Projects Coordinator, Taos Land Trust [31]

**Apr 17 Tree Tales and Shrub Love.** Marisa Thompson, Urban Horticultural Specialist, NMSU Extension Plant Sciences, Los Lunas [30]

**May 15 How to Woo a Bee: The role of flower color, scent, and shape in attracting bees.** Olivia Carril, PhD., Santa Fe [33]

**June 19 Penstemons at the Los Alamos Nature Center.** Larry Deaven, Volunteer at Los Alamos Nature Center [46]

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**July 17 Noxious Weeds of Northern New Mexico.** Jim Wanstall, NM Dept of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Coordinator. [38]

**Sept 18 Native Plants' Medicinal Uses.** Morgaine Witriol, founder of Native Roots, Taos [54]

**Oct 16 The Importance of Pollen.** Ken Bower, Santa Fe [26]

**\* 2019 Field Trips/Hikes/Workshops \***

*Attendance shown in brackets [ ], average of 11*

**April 28** “Gardening with Natives” - a roundtable discussion with Gail Haggard of Plants of the Southwest [18]

**May 4** Field Trip: Santa Fe for plant shopping at Santa Fe Master Gardeners Fair, Plants of the Southwest, and Waterwise, led by Jan Martenson [8]

**May 12** Hike: Wildflowers of the Taos Junction Overlook Trail, led by Jan Martenson [11]

**June 8** Hike: Columbine Canyon, led by Kathryn Mayer & Jan Martenson [8]

**June 23** Hike: Amole Canyon, led by Jan Martenson [12]

**July 2** Field Trip: Santa Fe Botanical Gardens (guided tour with Scott Caning) & private Rock Garden, led Kathryn Mayer and Jan Martenson [16]

**July 6** Hike: Yerba Canyon, led by Jan Martenson [3]

**July 21** Field Trip: Valle Vidal, focusing on Riparian Flora; led by Gayle Tyree, Botanical Technician with BLM-Taos. [10]

**Aug 10** Hike: Santa Barbara Canyon, led by Kathryn Mayer [6]

**Sept. 5** Field Trip: Dean Swift Seed Company, visiting wildflower fields of asters grown for seed production, Jaroso, Colorado [14]

**\* Projects and Public Outreach \***

1. **Taos Educator Grants:** In spite of advertising and email notifications via the state STEM coordinator, no local educators applied for the \$250 grant the Taos Chapter board offered in the spring to local educators. However, a request for additional funding for signage and copying of plant lists in the Native Plant Gardens came from Millicent Rogers Museum so we agreed to give them \$250.
2. **Project to promote local awareness of noxious and invasive species:** The NPSNM Taos Chapter, represented primarily by Jim Ludden, Jan Martenson and/or Kathryn Mayer, has been attending monthly meetings of the committee for the Taos County Cooperative Weed Management Area [TCCWMA]. This group

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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 assisted in the planning and execution of a Community Weed Workshop the first week of June. It was attended by more than 120 people.

**3. Public Outreach:**

- a. **Participation in Community Field Day, Millicent Rogers Museum, June 29:** We set up a table with a game of matching seed pods to the appropriate plant. It was not a well-attended event.
- b. **Participation in anniversary celebration at Taos Herb, July 10:** We were invited to set up a table for two hours to share our mission with shoppers.
- c. **New Mexico Native Plant Day celebration and sale, Aug 2:** Eight member volunteers assisted with this ANNUAL public outreach offering information and selling native plants & books at Cid's Supermarket in Taos. We netted over \$860 in donations and sales of plants, books, notecards, & tattoos.

**4. Demonstration Gardens:**

- a. Our small garden in front of Brodsky's bookstore on Paseo del Pueblo Sur in downtown Taos was cleaned up in the spring and fall and several times over the summer. Janet Adams oversees monthly maintenance, assisted by new member Susie Shanley. Signs are installed early in the spring and removed for the winter.
- 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 & Social Media:** "The Wonderful World of Native Plants," a monthly column in the Taos News, is written by Jan Martenson, Mary Adams, and occasionally we reprint articles from the NPSNM newsletter (with permission of the authors). Articles cover upcoming meetings and other activities and often feature a native plant. In addition, the chapter has 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.

**6. Greenhouse and Native Plant sales:** Seeds were germinated and grown to selling stage mostly by Kathryn Mayer in her own home and greenhouse. Those and plants contributed by other members were sold on Native Plant day in August. Approximately two dozen of our leftover stock of plants was donated to the Tao Land Trust for their pollinator gardens.

- a. **Collaboration with Taos Land Trust:** In the fall we were approached by Taos Land Trust with an offer to relocate our greenhouse to their property in Rio

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Fernando Park and enter into a collaboration for propagating native plants, both for our annual sales and to introduce into the Rio Fernando Park. The greenhouse was moved in late November by a group comprising Taos chapter members, Ben Wright of TLT, and an AmeriCorps crew. We are in the process of creating an MOU to establish our formal collaboration guidelines. We are excited by this collaboration and effort sharing for promoting native plants as the location of TLT is much more convenient for our greenhouse volunteers, and the setting is much more pleasant than the previous location at the Taos County Ag Center.

7. **A Herbarium** established about 16 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*

