

2019

REPORT OF THE LAS CRUCES CHAPTER OF NPSNM

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A. SCHEDULED NPSNM LAS CRUCES EVENTS

(# attendees in brackets [])

January

Meeting: Wed. Jan. 23, 7:00 p.m.: NMSU Assistant Professor Ivette Guzman presented "Farm to Cell Research: We are what we eat" in the Good Samaritan Conference Room, Social Center, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. [25]

Field Trip: Sat. Jan. 26, 9:00 a.m.: Alex Mares of NM State Parks led us on a tour of Leasburg Dam State Park. [14]

February

Meeting: Wed. Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m.: State Entomologist Carol Sutherland presented "New Mexico's Native Pollinators" in the Good Samaritan Conference Room, Social Center, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. [24]

Field Trip: Sat. March 2, 9:00 a.m.: Picacho Peak. [11]

March

Meeting: Wed. March 27, 7:00 p.m.: Lisa Mandelkern gave a virtual tour of early spring wildflowers of our area in the Good Samaritan Conference Room, Social Center, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. [25]

Field Trip: Sat. March 31, 9:00 a.m.: West side of Tortugas Mountain. [5]

April

Field Trip: Sat. Apr. 6, 9:00 a.m.: Alex Mares of NM State Parks led us to Camp Robledo, Leasburg Dam State Park. [6]

Field Trip: Sat. Apr. 13, 8:00 a.m.: Aguirre Springs, Organ Mtns. [5]

Meeting: Wed. Apr. 24, 7:00 p.m.: NMSU Herbarium curator Zachary Rogers presented "The biodiversity of Madagascar" in the NMSU Herbarium. [14]

Field Trip: Sat. Apr. 27, 8:00 a.m.: Sierra Vista Trail by North Anthony's Nose, Franklin Mtns. [4]

May

Meeting: Wed. May 22, 7:00 p.m.: NMSU student Sarah Ramirez presented "The more the merrier? Bioprospecting the bitterness of cytogenetic variants within the creosote bush in the Sonoran & Chihuahuan deserts" in the NMSU Herbarium. [25]

Field Trip: Sat. May 25, 8:00 a.m.: Dripping Springs Trail, Organ Mountains. [8]

June

Meeting: Wed. June 26, 7:00 p.m.: Daniella Barraza of the BLM, Sara Fuentes of the NMSU Herbarium, and Kirsten Romig of the Jornada Range presented "The Tools for Native Plant Identification: the ultimate Detective work!" in the NMSU Herbarium. [20]

Field Trip: Sat. June 29, 7:00 a.m.: Sawyer's Peak, Black Range. [8]

July

Meeting: Wed. July 24, 7:00 p.m.: NMSU Associate Professor Brian Schutte presented "Ecological traits of weeds and invasive plants" in the Good Samaritan Conference Room, Social Center, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. [20]

Field Trip: Sun. July 29, 8:00 a.m.: Lisa Mandelkern led us to the Gallinas/Railroad Canyon Trail, Black Range. [16]

August

[Annual Conference in Santa Fe, Aug. 1-4]

Meeting: Wed. Aug. 28, 7:00 p.m.: The Gringo Gourmet Jim Hastings of El Paso, with assistance from Joan Woodward & Madeleine Woodward of Las Cruces, presented "Not Your Mama's Nopalitos" in the NMSU Herbarium. [52]

Field Trip: Sun. Sept. 1, 8:00 a.m.: Osha Trail, Sacramento Mountains [12]

September

Field Trip: Sat. Sept. 21, 8:00 a.m.: Rhodes Canyon, Eugene Manlove Rhodes gravesite, historic Hardin Ranch, Wood Ranch, and other sites in the San Andres Mountains. Led by botanist Dr. David Lee Anderson. [31]

Meeting: Wed. Sept. 25, 7:00 p.m.: Angie Swanson, NMSU Graduate Assistant in Plant and Environmental Sciences, presented "Reducing Waste Through Composting, the Latest Advances" in the NMSU Herbarium. [16]

Field Trip: Sun. Sept. 29, 8:00 a.m.: Bar-Soledad Canyon Trail, South Loop, Organ Mountains [5]

October

Meeting: Wed. Oct. 23, 7:00 p.m.: Dr. Patrick Alexander of the BLM presented "The processes botanists use for finding rare plants" in the NMSU Herbarium. [21]

Field Trip: Sun. Oct. 27, 9:00 a.m.: Dr. Ivette Guzman led us on a tour of the NMSU Chile Pepper Institute Garden. [20]

November

Meeting: Wed. Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.: Subhankar Mandal, NMSU Graduate Research Assistant in the Onion Breeding Program, presented "Breeding for improving resistance against Fusarium basal rot in short-day onion cultivars" in the NMSU Herbarium [17]

Field Trip: Sun. Nov. 17, 9:00 a.m.: Trystan Harpold led us to Slot Canyon, Cedar Hills. [8]

Annual Totals of Events Attendees

A total of 153 attendees went on fourteen NPSNM-Las Cruces field trips in 2019. Total attendance for the eleven monthly meetings was 259.

B. Special Events & Projects of Support to the Community and to NMSU

Earth Day: Sat. Apr. 20, 8:00 a.m. to noon. Earth Day activities were held at the Plaza de Las Cruces near Main Street in downtown Las Cruces. NPSNM had a booth with display provided by the NMSU Herbarium and with activities for children. Special thanks to Vic Crane for the canopy, and to volunteers Trystan Harpold, Carolyn Gressitt, Meg Freyermuth, Aadarsh Prasad, Julie Groth-Sorensen, Frankie Lerner, Bill Ogden, Joy Goldbaum, and John Freyermuth. Flower and Cactus posters were displayed and sold along with books. Live plants provided additional color and interest. Children enjoyed stamps and games.

National Public Lands Day: Sat. Sep. 28, all day. Members of the Las Cruces Chapter of NPSNM gave a tour from Dripping Springs Visitors Center in order to familiarize the public with the

garden project and to present to them the new plant signs in the Outer Garden as well as plant signs along the trail to La Cueva. Thanks to Vic Crane, Gordon Berman, and Meg Freyermuth for guiding the public from several points onto various paths and trails.

Herbarium Volunteers: Year-round and ongoing. NPSNM/Las Cruces volunteers at the NMSU Herbarium included Lisa Mandelkern, Cheryl Beymer, Vic Crane, Julie Groth-Sorensen, Ifham Hassan Zareer, John Freyermuth, and Carolyn Gressitt.

Dripping Springs Garden Committee: Year-round and ongoing. Vic Crane (chair), Earlene Brookshear, Carolyn Gressitt, John Freyermuth, Leslie Bezner, Julie Groth-Sorensen, Marcia Corl, Deb McKeown, Jim Von Loh, Jo Sauve, Susan Lerch, Helen Zagona, Julie Boxer, Eileen Davis, Gordon Berman, Leslie Finley, Carol Laskin, Lorry Hokscho, Richard Myers, and Eileen Roberts. The committee was active through most of 2019, and was ably chaired and coordinated by Vic Crane. Special thanks to Vic Crane for technical assistance with irrigation, to Leslie Bezner for mapping project, and to Daniella Barraza & Partick Alexander of the BLM, Dave Anderson, Carolyn Gressitt, John Freyermuth and Vic Crane for their help with trail signs for the Outer Garden and for the trail to La Cueva. Thanks also to Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Patrick Nolan for obtaining and providing signage for nearly 100 plants that were placed early in the summer. Some from our group attended a luncheon for all BLM volunteers held at Dripping Springs on October 9, 2019.

Jornada Field Botany:

In 2019, some of us again participated, as in 2018, in The Jornada Field Botany field trips, led by Kirsten Romig with assistance from Connie Maxwell and others. These are bi-monthly field trips, often to remote areas, occurring from January through November. We appreciate the Jornada's willingness to reach out to the community, and we most appreciate Kirsten's help with our botanizing: great teacher!

Asombro Institute for Science Education:

Photographer, amateur naturalist, and Native Plant Society member Lisa Mandelkern provided four framed beautiful cactus photographs to the Asombro Institute as part of their new Adopt A Cactus fundraiser program. The prices for the framed photos range from \$60 to \$500.

Donations:

In 2019 the Las Cruces Chapter made donations to Leasburg Dam State Park, the Asombro Institute, and the NMSU Herbarium.

Carolyn Gressitt