

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
TAOS CHAPTER
2020 Annual Report

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Landscaping - Brodsky's Bookstore:
Janet Adams

Greenhouse: Kathryn Mayer

Publicity: Board members

Membership: vacant

*** 2020 Monthly Meetings with Speakers ***

Two virtual meetings were held via Zoom in 2020. The recording can be seen on our YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos

June 3 Best Wildflower Hikes in New Mexico. Christina Selby of Santa Fe, speaking on her recently published book of the same.

Sept 23 New Mexico's Changing Climate. Dr. David Dubois, New Mexico State Climatologist, CoCoRaHS State Coordinator, Director of the NM Climate Center, and Associate Professor at NMSU.

*** 2020 Field Trips/Hikes/Workshops ***

Sadly, none were advertised for full membership, but small groups of officers and greenhouse volunteers took several hikes to learn plant IDs, develop a new trail list, and collect seeds.

*** Projects and Public Outreach ***

flora ~ friends ~ fun

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1. **Greenhouse and Native Plant sales:** As described in last year's report, we entered into a collaboration with the Taos Land Trust (TLT) for relocating and sharing our greenhouse in Rio Fernando Park (RFP). In January of 2020 we signed an MOU with TLT defining guidelines for the use of the shared greenhouse. In February a Taos Chapter greenhouse work group was formed, comprising 6-8 member/volunteers, under the guidance of Kathryn Mayer, chapter vice-president and Greenhouse Supervisor. Once pandemic social distancing rules were put in place in March we met in smaller groups, masked and outside the greenhouse when possible. Seeds were germinated and seedlings grown in the greenhouse as well as in some members' home. Those and plants contributed by other members (as well as books, notecards, and tattoos) were sold during three days of socially-distanced sales in July and August, grossing \$1,813.69, which more than covered the \$1047.72 spent for relocation expenses and purchase of greenhouse supplies. Some of the leftover plant stock was donated to and installed in the RFP pollinator gardens. A report of these efforts appeared in the 1st Quarter 2021 NPSNM newsletter.
2. **Project to promote local awareness of noxious and invasive species:** The NPSNM Taos Chapter, represented primarily by Robert Pokorney, has been participating in monthly virtual meetings of the working group for the Taos County Cooperative Weed Management Area [TCCWMA]. This group was established in 2018 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, USFS, and private citizen/educators. We assisted in the planning and execution of the first Community Weed Workshop held in 2019 and attended by more than 120 people. This year's Workshop was a Zoom webinar held in July featuring two presenters, Dr. Leslie Beck (Extension Weed Specialist and Asst. Professor, NMSU), and Dr. Richard Lee (IPM Specialist and Weed Specialist/ BLM).
3. **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. Two members oversee monthly maintenance. 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.
4. **Publicity & Social Media:** "The Wonderful World of Native Plants," a column in the Taos News, normally appears monthly announcing upcoming meetings. In this year of COVID only two articles appeared, the first one (https://www.taosnews.com/la-vida/home-and-garden/what-you-should-know-about-fabulous-fungi/article_6238113f-2d3d-5e8f-b51b-ecc3724e0fd7.html) in

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early March featuring upcoming speaker Joseph Morton speaking on Fungi (which was cancelled). A second article appeared in May describing the flora blooming on the local Rift Valley Trail system (https://www.taosnews.com/la-vida/great-outdoors/on-the-trails-whats-blooming-in-may/article_6765538f-a607-56e0-b0da-48d5f139ba4b.html). 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.

5. **A Herbarium** established about 16 years ago by then-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

