

2021 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Otero Chapter, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Thursday, August 19

1:30 pm–3:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting, Magnuson Hotel and Suites, 1021 S White Sands Blvd, Alamogordo

Friday, August 20

7:30 am–4:00 pm Check-in/Registration, Sergeant Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center (SWEMCC)

8:00 am–4:00 pm Silent Auction/Vendors open

9:00 am–9:30 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**, Jennifer Gruger, president of the Otero County chapter

9:30 am–10:30 am **Evidence for plant use from Archaic traditions (~ 6,000 BC–200 AD) through the El Paso phase (AD 1275-1450)**, Key Note Speaker Pam McBride

10:30 am–10:45 am Break

JORNADA MOGOLLON PERIOD

10:45 am–11:30 am **Prehistoric evidence of native plant utilization and landscape modification in Tularosa Canyon**, David Greenwald (Companion FT #E on Sunday)

11:30 am–12:15 pm **People and environment of the Three Rivers culture and their record in stone**, Joan Price (Companion FT #F on Sunday)

12:15 pm–1:30 pm Lunch

MESCALERO APACHE PERIOD

1:30 pm–2:15 pm **Tribal historic preservation – Uses of plants**, Holly Houghten

2:15 pm–2:30 pm Break

MEXICAN SETTLERS PERIOD

2:30 pm–3:15 pm **Historic and modern uses of native plants**, Alex Mares

3:15 pm–4:15 pm **Panel Discussion – What is a “Native Plant”?**

5:00 pm–7:00 pm Reception - White Sands National Park (pending confirmation.)

7:00 pm Dinner on your own

Saturday, August 21

SATURDAY MORNING

Field Trips and Workshops, 8:00 am–noon, unless otherwise indicated. Items marked with an asterisk (*) indicate a companion workshop or field trip during another part of the conference. Meeting locations and information on workshop fees will be provided later. Fees will be payable at registration. Some workshops will be available virtually.

WS1 **Using Native Plants in home landscaping—notes from a rookie** Leader: LeAnne Roberts
Limit: 15

WS2 ***Elderberry uses: Eating, cooking, medicinal and dyes** Leader: Kristy Tramel
Companion FT #C on Sunday. Location: Pending. Limit: 20.

WS3 **Apache uses of plants in food preparation** Leader: TBD
Location: SWEMCC Limit: 15.

- WS4 **Nature's Pharmacy—identification of native plants and their uses** Leader: Mimi Kamp
(Companion to FT #B on Sunday) Location: SWEMCC Limit: 20.
- WS5 **Sunflower workshop** Leaders: Dr. Richard Spellenberg and Dr. Timothy Lowrey
Location: SWEMCC. Limit: 20.
- WS6 **Traditional pottery of the Ysleta del sur Pueblo** Leader: Richard Hernandez
Learn about uses, examples, and how to make a simple pot. Each participant will create their own pot.
Location: Clay Time, 700 East First Street, Suite 756. Limit: 15.
- FT7 **Tularosa Basin Museum of History private tour and optional self-guided walking tour of early homes in Alamogordo** Leader: Debra Lewandowski
A historical Pueblo Revival building. Exhibits range from prehistoric to the Space Race. Helpful in understanding the geography, people, and development of the area. Location: 1004 N. White Sands Blvd. Limit: 20.
- FT8 **Tularosa acequia system tour** Leaders: Robert Baca, Mayordomo and Michael Gruger, Tularosa resident
Historic 49 blocks of Tularosa and surrounding area. Driving/walking tour led by the mayordomo of the longest actively utilized acequia (open ditch irrigation system) in the southwest. Meeting location: TBD. Limit: 20.
- FT9 **Historical trees of Tularosa** Leader: Elva Osterreich
Driving and walking in Tularosa and surrounding area. Look not only at the types of trees in the area but also some of the oral history and tales surrounding them, including ghost stories and more. Meeting location: TBD. Limit: 20.
- FT10 **Alamo Canyon hike and plant identification** Leader: Ken Henderson
High desert vegetation. Difficulty intermediate. See website for additional information. Location: Alamo Canyon, just east of Alamogordo. Limit: 20.
- FT11 **People and Plants, wisdom of an Apache medicine man** Leader: Joey Padilla Limit: 20.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- 12:30 pm–4:00 pm Silent Auction/Vendors open
Noon–1:30 pm Lunch – SWEMCC

TERRITORIAL PERIOD

- 1:30 pm–2:15 pm **Cienegas in the Territorial Period: Saving all the Beauty That Remains, a conversation with filmmaker Christina Selby**

EARLY LOGGING AND RAILROAD PERIOD

- 2:15 pm–3:00 pm **The effect of logging on the plant ecosystem and early railroads**, Jessie Willet

MODERN ERA

- 3:00 pm–3:45 pm **Experimental range, range grasses, impact of grazing and shrub encroachment**, Brandon Bestelmeyer
- 3:45 pm–4:00 pm Break - Silent Auction closes at 4:00 pm
- 4:00 pm–4:50 pm **Weed ecology and restoration ecology**, Akasha Faist and Erik Lenhoff
- 4:50 pm–5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**, Jennifer Gruger
- 5:00 pm–5:30 pm Pick up Silent Auction Items
- 6:30 pm **Evening Banquet** – SWEMCC
Presentation of Jack and Martha Carter Native Plant Conservation Award Recipient and a visit from a Very, Very Special Guest

Sunday, August 22

Field Trips start 8:00 am unless otherwise indicated. Many of the field trips on Sunday range farther afield and you may want to pack a lunch. Some of them might be on your route home. Items marked with an asterisk (*) indicate a companion workshop or field trip during another part of the conference. Meeting locations and information on workshop fees will be provided later. Fees will be payable at registration.

- A White Sands National Park Leader: David Bustos, park biologist**
Walk to a behind-the-scenes area that is not normally accessed by the public, look at the survival techniques of the cottonwood trees, and visit some of the interdunal areas to learn how they work. Ideal for those headed south toward El Paso or Las Cruces. **Limit: 20.**
- B *Identification and responsible harvest of herbs Leader: Mimi Kamp**
(Companion to WS4) **Location:** Specific meeting point TBD closer to the event based on what's growing where but Cloudcroft/High Rolls area. **Limit: 20.**
- C *Elderberry hunting skills Leader: Kristy Tramel**
Meeting Location: Cloudcroft, specific spot pending (Companion workshop WS2) **Limit: 20.**
- D Health benefits of being in nature: Meditation practices to increase awareness Leader: LeAnne Roberts**
Location: LeAnne and Ron Roberts home at 34 High Sierra Drive in Alamogordo **Limit 20.**
- E *Creekside Village tour Leader: David Greenwald**
Observe the effects prehistoric and historic land-use activities have had on the landscape. Discuss what native plants were exploited by the Jornada Mogollon who occupied the canyon. **Hike:** moderate/difficult (Companion presentation at 10:45 am on Friday.) **Limit: 20.**
- F *Three Rivers Petroglyph Site tour with plant ID Leader: Joan Price**
The petroglyphs, dating back to ~900–1400 AD, were created by Jornada Mogollon people. More than 21,000 glyphs of birds, humans, animals, fish, insects plants, and geometric and abstract designs are scattered over 50 acres of New Mexico's northern Chihuahuan Desert. **Hike:** easy to moderate, the trail is 1/2 mile. **Location:** 17 miles north of Tularosa and 28 miles south of Carrizozo on U.S. 54. (Companion presentation at 11:30 on Friday.) Ideal for those headed north to Albuquerque or Santa Fe. **Limit: 20.**
- G Life zones of the Sacramento Mountains Leader: William Herndon**
Driving tour up La Borcita Canyon Road that will stop at five different life zones. Explore plants, animals and birds at each zone. **Difficulty:** easy. **Limit: 20.**
- H Oliver Lee State Park Leader: Katherine German, park ranger/manager.**
Set against the Sacramento Mountains, this park features Frenchy's cabin, an historic ranch house, and riparian trail (hopefully with dragon flies). We will visit a unique oasis of water pools under the cottonwood trees of Dog Canyon. The 620-acre park is named after a colorful and influential character, Oliver Lee, from the turn of the 20th century. Ideal for those headed to El Paso or Las Cruces. **Limit: 20.**
- I Osha Trail hike and identification of plants Leader: Esther Fyock**
The easy-to-follow 2.2 mile loop passes through high mountain vegetative and geological environments typical of the Cloudcroft vicinity and other nearby areas at similar elevations. Douglas-fir, oak, and aspen abound opening up into meadows of vast variety. **Hike:** Moderate difficulty. **Limit: 20.**
- J Aguirre Springs Pine Tree Trail Leader: TBA**
The four-mile trail offers spectacular views of the Tularosa Basin, and includes streams, grassy areas, a variety of shrubs and trees and involves the transition zone from the Chihuahuan Desert to the pinon pine/juniper belt including cacti, yucca, sotol, mahogany and gray oak. **Limit: 20.**

"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, "What good is it?" If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering." – Aldo Leopold