

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO  
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER**

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021



## President's Message Spring 2021

Carol Conoboy, 3/15/2021

**What a Difference a Year Makes.** After a wet, warm February and normal rains in March 2020, the Florida Mountains were lush with spring flowers in mid-March, our only field trip of the year. Now looking outside, I suspect cold weather and drought will delay spring blooming for weeks.

When Wes Brittenham spoke to us recently about encouraging a wide variety of wildlife, he emphasized valuing the insects in our gardens. It matters what we do in our gardens. This brings to mind the importance of last year's foliage. Plant litter, or leaves, flowers, and stems, only contain 1-2% of all garden pests. Pollinators, predators and parasites also hidden in litter and soil generally take care of problem bugs. So don't remove plant litter until after you put away your winter coat, have done your taxes, and considered planting tomatoes.

If you can't wait, cut the stems, bundle and tie the foliage, or throw the stems loosely under your trees, shrubs, or compost pile. Do not throw them in the trash.

Then, only do limited leaf clean-up. Scores of beneficial insects hunker down for the winter in leaf litter as adults, eggs, or pupae and emerge in early spring. As you clean up your leaves keep a sharp eye out for these insects.

Next, wait to mulch. Because many beneficial insects overwinter in soil as eggs, pupae, or adults, they need to be able to dig out in early spring. Prune with great care, leaving 8" stems or longer behind. Finally, add last year's compost to enrich your gardens.

Start a new compost pile yearly. When early spring weeds emerge, remove stems and roots *before* they bloom and produce seeds and compost emerging weeds.

If we observe what is happening around us and are curious about why, we may find problems solved by simultaneously building soil and increasing biodiversity. For instance, we add compost to our gardens; plant more native plants for spring through fall blooms, thus encourage pollinators to explore and return to our gardens.

We wait for spring rains, hope early wildflowers come into bloom, and plan our hikes to enjoy them once the necessary moisture arrives. We provide our garden friends extra water at different levels, and enjoy the bounty of nature.

Information from Mary Jo Ticha, who led the Bernalillo County Workshop "Tending to Pollinators" on March 6, 2021.

Plant for the future! **Carol**



Wood Sunflower, *Helianthella quinquenervis* and bee  
Photo © George Miller

### Cover Photo

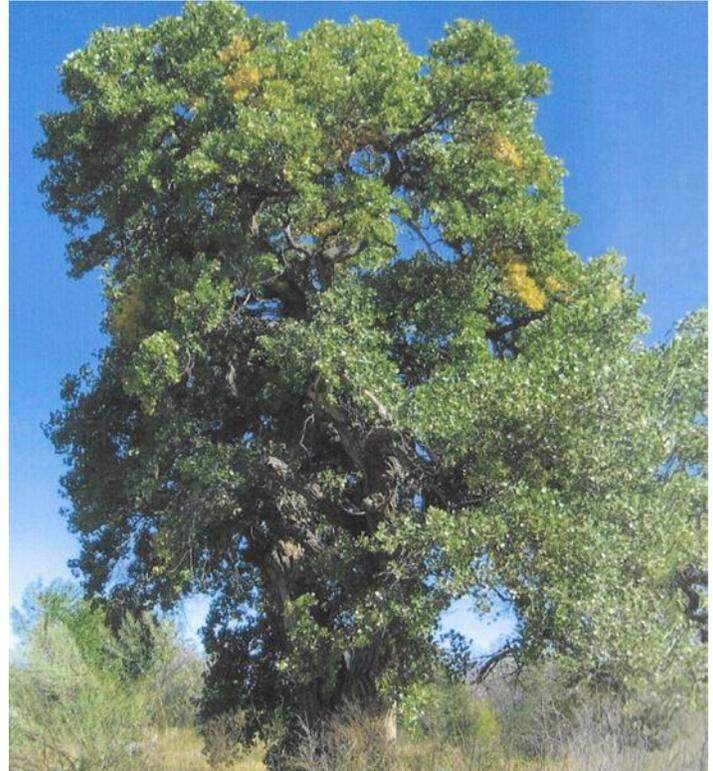
Blooming Blanketflower  
*Gaillardia pulchella* with  
bee collecting pollen

Photo © George O. Miller

## Our Favorite Tree - The Rio Grande Cottonwood

By Donald H. Heinze\*

The people on the westward winding wagon trains were delighted to see the big trees that meant relief from the intense sun of the seemingly endless, arid prairies. They knew the trees bordered rivers or streams and that meant water for culinary purposes and livestock as well as fresh grass for the animals. It also meant company from other wagon trains and Indians that might or might not be friendly. These pioneers probably thought that they were either Eastern Cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides* Bartram ex H. Marshall variety *deltoides*) or Plains cottonwood (*P. d.* variety *occidentalis* Rhydberg) with their tall stature, 100 feet or more, and stout trunk which sometimes exceeded three feet in diameter. Like those of the eastern counterparts, the leaves were deciduous, alternate, and light green to yellow. Triangular leaves were 1.5 to 3 inches long and a similar distance wide; the apex of the triangle was sharp pointed; the lower two points of the triangle were rounded, and each of the three leaf edges were finely toothed. Both species were handsome trees.

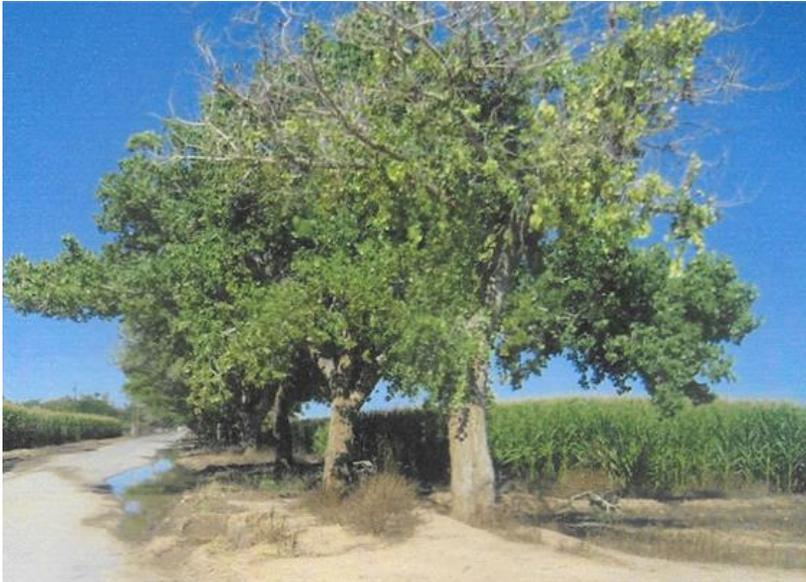


The Rio Grande Cottonwood. This tree is the iconic “Owl Tree” at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, on Hwy 47 south of Belen.



An image of a bosque - a pleasant woodland  
Notice that there are no young cottonwoods

The trees formed narrow bands approximately 150 feet wide on each side of water courses. The Spanish called these woodlands “bosques”. Anglos eagerly assimilated this picturesque term into their own language. They were excellent places for habitation, and Pueblo Indians claimed great expanses of them for their settlements. The Spanish wanted them for their own, and blood was shed. The bosques were passed to the Latinos when they revolted successfully against Spain. In turn, Americans acquired the land and constructed cities and towns in and next to the bosques. Recognizing their beauty, developers often spared the trees and their vegetation understories.



Rio Grande Cottonwood makes a good street tree.

**Then the scientists came.** Among the first was the German physician and naturalist Frederick Wislizenus, who initially noticed that this tree was different from the eastern trees, the Plains and Eastern Cottonwoods. They did not have glands at the bottom of their leaves like their eastern counterparts. Not a botanist, Wislizenus gave his tree samples to the renowned botanist George Engelmann who relayed them to American botanist Sereno Watson.

Sereno Watson was the loser who did not give up until he was a winner. He graduated from Yale, but failed at everything he tried -

farming, banking and business. Then he volunteered as an unpaid laborer for a western expedition. He collected firewood, made cookfires, washed dishes and mounted plants for the expedition botanist. There he found himself. He then went on to become a great botanical scientist; making the first scientific description of the Rio Grande Cottonwood. Later another profound botanist, Charles Sargent, an expert on tree classification and taxonomy, redescribed the tree, and named it to commemorate Fredrick Wislizenus: "*Populus deltoides* Bartram ex H. Marshall variety *wislizeni*". *Populus* is Latin for poplar; *deltoides* is Latin for the triangle shaped leaves (like the Eastern and Plains Cottonwoods have), and *wislizeni* to distinguish the tree from the eastern and plains varieties because they have no leaf glands.

The Rio Grande Cottonwood is cherished by many, both in the wild and as a domestic tree. Its only problem is the "cotton" in which the seed is embedded. This can be very messy. This difficulty is solved by sterile horticultural varieties. It is seen everywhere: as a street tree, in yards, parks, and school yards. The wood is used for fuel, fence posts, poles, and light construction.



Notice the "cotton", and the triangular, toothed leaves with the pointed ends. Also note that there are no leaf glands.



Ravenna Grass replacing cottonwoods  
in a Rio Grande bosque.

Tragically, most of our wild Rio Grande cottonwoods in New Mexico are doomed. The seeds must have “overbank flow” of river water in order to get the proper nutrients to germinate. Dams have eliminated this in most places, so there is no such flow. The existing trees will only live for approximately 100 years and will not be replaced. (Photos of bosque to left and below.) Instead, invasive aliens such as salt cedar (*Tamarisk* spp.), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), and Ravenna Grass (*Saccharum ravennae*) will occupy the bosques except for a few places where there is still overbank flow.

## Citations

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\* **All images by Donald H. Heinze**



Russian Olive (left), salt cedar (center) and  
Siberian Elm (right) have replaced cotton-  
woods in this former cottonwood bosque.

**Diane's note:** Did you know cottonwood seeds germinate and float during flooding events, then populate sand bars as floods recede, growing as a cohort of same age trees. I studied seedling ecology of Rio Grande Cottonwood and the invasive Tamarisk at the Sevilleta NWR as part of the Research and Education for Undergraduates (REU) program sponsored by UNM Biology Department and National Science Foundation.

Find a **cool** shady spot on a **hot** day  
in the **Cottonwood Gallery** at the **BioPark Botanical Garden** next to the **farm**



San Mateo penstemon, *Penstemon pseudoparvus* is now a synonym for Apache beardtongue, *Penstemon oliganthus*

Photo © Jerry Oldenettel

## THE RARE PENSTEMON THAT ISN'T RARE

By Jim McGrath  
Botanist

In 2018, I served as a Fire Lookout at Grassy Lookout in the San Mateo Mountains of central New Mexico. I knew that there is a species of penstemon, the San Mateo penstemon (*Penstemon pseudoparvus*), that is endemic to the San Mateo and Magdalena Mountains of central New Mexico. The San Mateo penstemon has been on the New Mexico Rare Plant List: <https://nmrareplants.unm.edu/> It is also listed as a U.S. Forest Service sensitive species. The plant grows in “Open ponderosa pine or spruce-fir forests and high montane meadows” between 9,000 and 10,000 ft elevation (NMRPTC 1999) – precisely the habitat found on the ridge where the lookout stands.

When August rolled around, I noticed populations of this species near the lookout. Eventually, I got around to making a collection of a specimen of this rare plant. My intent was to add a specimen to the UNM herbarium. Specimens in an herbarium provide concrete documentation that a particular plant species was found on a particular date in a particular place. Herbarium specimens tell botanists the distribution of species.

Many months later I attempted to verify the identification of the specimen. I quickly determined that the specimen was not the San Mateo penstemon but was instead the Apache beardtongue (*Penstemon oliganthus*). A review of the San Mateo penstemon page on the New Mexico Rare Plant website revealed that the Apache beardtongue does not occur in the San Mateo Mountains (NMRPTC 1999). Later, I reviewed the Penstemon section of the Flora of North America Volume 17 and realized that Craig Freeman had decided, after reviewing a number of specimens, that *P. pseudoparvus* and *P. oliganthus* represent only a single species – the Apache beardtongue (Freeman 2019).

*Continued next page*

On February 26, 2021 the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council (NMRPTC) agreed with Freeman's assessment and made *Penstemon pseudoparvus* a synonym of *P. oliganthus* and dropped it from the New Mexico Rare Plant List. Therefore, those penstemons with the purple to blue corollas and white throats that grow in open ponderosa pine and spruce-fir forests between 9000 and 10,000 ft. elevation in the San Mateo and Magdalena Mountains are not rare at all – just more of the Apache beardtongue whose range extends into the mountains of Arizona as well as Colorado.



San Mateo penstemon, *Penstemon pseudoparvus* is now a synonym for Apache beardtongue, *Penstemon oliganthus*  
Photo © Jerry Oldenettel

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## Albuquerque Chapter Volunteers needed

### Join the City Nature Challenge 2021

**City Nature Challenge (CNC)** is an annual, global, community science competition to document urban biodiversity. The challenge is a bioblitz that engages residents and visitors to find and document plants, animals, and other organisms living in urban areas. Take photos and submit them to iNaturalist between April 30 - May 3, 2021 in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties. The following 6 days will be devoted to identifying the species. **Volunteers with the Albuquerque Chapter of NPSNM have been asked to help identify plants.**

Here is the iNaturalist link for CNC ABQ: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-abq>. You must sign up with iNaturalist to join the project, to make observations on your own or help others identify (ID) plants. Then send your volunteer e-mail to: [cnc.abq@gmail.com](mailto:cnc.abq@gmail.com).

It is important to have knowledgeable people. The more New Mexicans using iNaturalist, the better. This is not just for CNC, *everyone* benefits. Sign up now and practice using iNaturalist with a friend or two. You'll be glad you did!

*Thank you! Carol*

## Bee Nests in Your Backyard

Your backyard needs more than flowers to welcome bees

By George Miller

George Miller's latest book, "Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees & Butterflies: Southwest," was released this March by Adventure Publications.

Of the more than 1,500 species of bees in the Southwest, about 70 percent, more than 1,000 species, nest in ground burrows. Almost all of the rest nest in preexisting holes or tunnels they find in twigs, stems, bark, rocks, or abandoned beetle tunnels. Bumblebees, the only hive nesting bee in North America besides domestic honey bees, build shoe-box sized nests in dark rock crevices, hollow trunks, brush and rock piles, and animal burrows.



NM Giant Hyssop, *Agastache pallidiflora* ssp. *neomexicana*  
with pollinator Photo © George O. Miller

The female bee first prepares her nest tunnel then starts at the bottom and stacks one to several dozen individual cells in a row on top of each other. Each cell has one egg and a protein-energy rich ball, or loaf, of pollen and nectar. When an egg hatches, the larva consumes the loaf, grows through five molts, and finally spins a cocoon and pupates, just as butterflies do. The cocoon stage lasts all winter, or even for up to three years, before metamorphosis begins.

After metamorphosis, the pupa emerges as an adult bee and digs its way from the ground burrow, or barges through the stem tunnel destroying any occupied cells in the way. But not to worry. The mother bee lays female eggs at the bottom, and the quicker developing male eggs near the entrance. The males emerge a few days before the female and frenetically buzz around the entrance waiting for her to emerge. Some bees form nesting aggregations with dozens to hundreds of burrows. The time of emergence coincides with the bloom time of the bees' preferred flowers. Bees typically live about one year, but only 3–6 weeks as an adult foraging among the flowers.



Bee on Purple Sage, *Psoralea scoparius*  
Photo © George O. Miller



Perky Sue, *Tetaneuris argentea*, bumblebee  
Photo © George O. Miller

### Ground nests

Ground nesting bees need bare, sandy ground for their burrows. Females look for sunny south- or east-facing locations and carefully excavate their tunnel. Bees have been observed to burrow in hard-packed dirt roadsides and driveways, between pavers, on garden walkways, around the cleared base of shrubs and flowers, and in open spaces between plants. The excavations vary from one-fourth to one-half inch wide and might be mistaken for ant nests. Plan your garden design to include ample bare ground to support nesting bees, and avoid mulches, weed fabric, and regular watering in nesting areas. Bees usually nest close to their food source, so they will enjoy your sandy welcome mat.

### Nest Blocks

Blocks of wood drilled with various sized holes will supplement the natural nesting sites needed by wood-nesting bees. You can buy commercially produced nest blocks or easily construct your own. The block of untreated lumber should be 5–9 inches long, 3–5 inches wide, and 4 inches deep. Dead limbs can also be used. Drill rows of holes 1/4 to 1/2 inch diameter and 1 inch apart. Vary the depth from 3 to 6 inches deep, with the larger diameter holes the deepest. Place the nest block on a pole in a sunny spot facing south to southeast and cover with a small roof to keep rain from draining into the holes. Some Southwest bees nest in rock cavities. For them, substitute an adobe brick for the wood block.



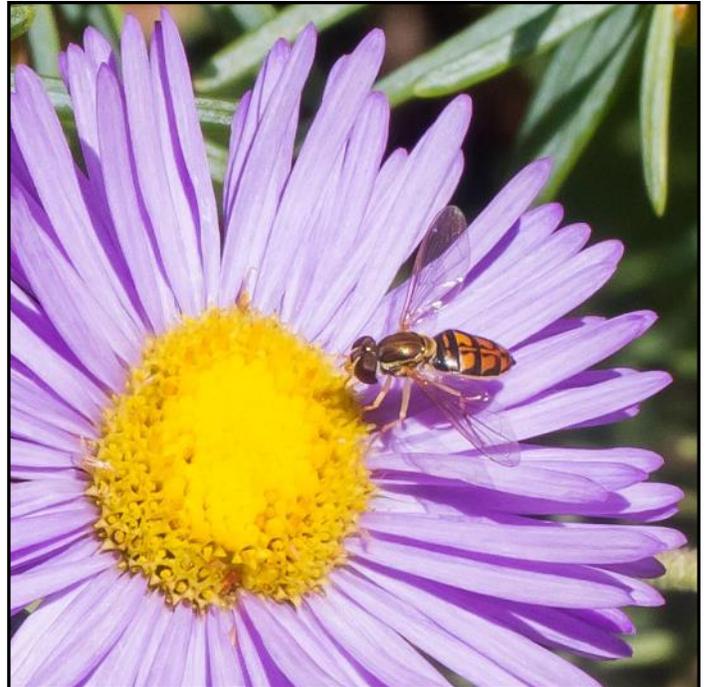
Bee Hotel above and closeup on left  
Photo © George O. Miller

## Nest Bundles

Many bees nest in twig and stem cavities. You can provide pre-made nest tunnels with paper drinking straws, bamboo, hollow sunflower stems, reeds, yucca, or any hollow plant stem. Stems need to be 6–9 inches long with one end sealed. Tie bundles of one to two dozen stems of various diameters with string, wire or plastic zip ties and hang in a protected location facing the morning sun. Alternatively, the bundles can be packed into a tin can, a PVC pipe with one end capped, or in an artistically designed “bee hotel” box.

## Nest maintenance

Bee nests are susceptible to predators, parasites, mites, and fungal infestations. Stem bundles should be replaced every two years in the spring after emergence and nest blocks sanitized by submerging in a 1:3 bleach-water solution. For greater protection from nest parasites and diseases, create small nest blocks and bundles with only 4–8 tunnels and place at least 25 feet apart.



Most Beautiful Daisy, *Erigeron formosissimus* and bee

Photo © George O. Miller

***Thank you George for giving us a reason to leave some bare ground for New Mexico bees!***

**The Yerba Mansa Project** is continuing to move forward with its community service goals despite continuing COVID-19 modifications. Our staff has been busy maintaining the previous plantings at our restoration site, editing our iNaturalist [Plants of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Field Guide](#) (thanks to support from our ABQ NPS Chapter!), planning to resume our school classroom field trips this fall, and undertaking a variety of other critical tasks. While our usual spring community field day will be cancelled due to limitations on group gatherings, we are planning to resume our Bosque Restoration Field Day event in September (Saturday date TBA, 9am-12noon). Stay tuned for further details.

**In the meantime, please join us for other in-person and live-streamed online events:**

- Ecological Herbalism: April 8, free event with the Tucson NPS Chapter, live-streamed
- Native Edible & Medicinal Shrubs for Wildlife & People: April 29, free event with the NM Audubon Society, live-streamed
- Summer Solstice Medicinal Plant Walk: June 20, fundraiser, in-person

See <https://yerbamansaproject.org/events/> for event details

**Did you know** that you can support the Yerba Mansa Project every time you shop on Amazon? Start from Amazon Smile using [this link](#) each time you shop and they will donate .5% of your sale to us! Find out more about our work and how you can get involved at <https://yerbamansaproject.org/>

## Field Trips for Everyone in 2021

By Lee Regan

Albuquerque may be New Mexico's most populous city, but like the rest of our wonderful state, we are blessed with a lot of varied outdoor environments close at hand – many within a short distance. Besides units of Petroglyphs National Monument, our members should become familiar with some of the Albuquerque Open Space trails: see trail maps at this link:

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/facilities-map>

Another site with interactive trail descriptions & maps is the Hiking Project:

<https://www.hikingproject.com/directory/8009314/albuquerque>

REMEMBER: these maps point to destinations; hikes listed as long or difficult do not have to be pursued to their end. Enjoy each step starting out!

It is imperative that we take advantage of every opportunity to get outdoor exercise – breathe fresh air and build up vitamin D with sunshine smiles on our faces. What we have learned from the past year is that spending time in nature is *essential* for everyone's physical, mental and emotional health.

Until vaccinations become more common, it may not be advisable to share close quarters of a vehicle by car-pooling, but we can still travel individually to trailheads and enjoy nature while wearing masks when encountering other people. If we go out in small groups, “social distancing” for us flower-finding folk means not bunching up or huddling over an interesting plant or new flower – we can take turns! Like Garcia Marquez' “Love in the time of cholera,” we can have field trips in the time of COVID!

Check the monthly meeting announcements for upcoming field trips. We may begin offering field trips for small groups beginning in April. Sign up by phone with Lee for more information at 505-792-1479.

Meanwhile, what we can also do for our fellow NPS members is to grow our social connections with each other: enlarge our networks of friends by communicating with other members; make opportunities to form or join informal small group outings; and especially, alert others about particular places and times when flowers are blooming as further encouragement to go investigate.



Budded Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, on 4/15/17 Quebradas field trip

Photo © Diane Stevenson

### MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ***VOLUNTEER***

Have you ever wished you could grow a wildlife-supporting native plant garden but never had enough space? Then you might take pleasure in helping to plan and maintain the **Pollinator Habitat** the Native Plant Society largely cares for at **El Oso Grande Park**, just north of Montgomery and Morris in Northeast Albuquerque. One or two more members are needed to visit the park for a couple of hours every other week through the growing season. Anyone interested should contact Tom Stewart at [tstewart \[at\] cybermesa.com](mailto:tstewart@cybermesa.com).

## Albuquerque Chapter Conservation

### News Brief

By Sue Small

**Presented at the Albuquerque Chapter board meeting March 18, 2021**

Members have been active in the campaign to ban trapping on public lands, with La Madera Project of the Sandia Mountain Collaborative and gathering information, and Sandia National Forest problem with ATVs, etc. getting into places vehicles should not be.

Jim McGrath, one of our very busy botanists, created a species list for Three Gun Spring Canyon in the Sandia National Forest with a description of vegetation communities in the Canyon, plus photos of cultural artifacts and features in the canyon and springs, noting eroded parts of the trail.

The Magdalena Ranger District is currently repairing fence access to two springs, creating a centralized fuelwood area, and hiring a wildlife biologist.

Jim McGrath presented “Evolution of the New Mexico Rare Plant Website” to NPSNM Gila Chapter on 3/19/21. Sue Small participated in the 2021 Land & Water Summit where Dara Saville presented “Native Edible and Medicinal Shrubs for Landscape Resiliency: Keepers of our Biological and Cultural Heritage.”

The NM Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was held March 25, 2021.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/scorp/index.html>

### Upcoming Conservation event:

The NM Southern Wetlands Roundtable is scheduled for April 8, 2021. For agendas and more info, contact Maryann McGraw at [maryann.mcgraw \[at\] state.nm.us](mailto:maryann.mcgraw@state.nm.us) or Emile Sawyer at [emile.sawyer \[at\] state.nm.us](mailto:emile.sawyer@state.nm.us)



Peekaboo! Pasque flower, *Anemone patens* var. *multifida* at Pine Flats 04/13/2019 hike  
Photo © Doris Eng

### Adventures Ahead

End of May, finally warming to June  
Morning clouds  
Skate above eastern mountains  
Still shaded by rising sun.

Western skies New Mexico blue  
Clear

Birds dance in my young garden  
Goldfinch feeding on seeds of  
Apache Plume made luxuriant  
By winter's frequent rains.

Plentiful blooms, plentiful butterflies  
Enticed by herbs and natives  
I am drawn to plant more  
To help them thrive.

Short-sleeved shirt and naked toes  
Cool, comfort in shade  
Today awaits  
What adventures lay before me?

© D K Stevenson, 05.30.19

Cutleaf coneflower,  
*Rudbeckia laciniata*  
from Bandelier hike led  
by Chick Keller on  
07/21/18  
Photo © D. Stevenson



## Join our new Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM Facebook group

By Lee Regan

[www.facebook.com/groups/3693433097360924](https://www.facebook.com/groups/3693433097360924) is intended exclusively for Native Plant Society of New Mexico members to communicate with each other about formal and informal field trips, hikes or walks. Message topics may include scheduling information and travel directions; and sharing information and/or photos of plant observations. It is also a place to discuss and highlight examples and questions about native plants. One of the nice benefits of using Facebook is the ease with which photos can be uploaded from your computer. One can also share links from news sites or websites.



Recognize this photo? This was from the only 2020 field trip to the Florida Mountains. See George's *Florida Mountains Bucket List* article and photos in the Spring 2020 ABQ Chapter newsletter (*archived on website*)  
Photo © George Miller

Because it is a “private” group, members will not be bombarded with a lot of external advertisements and social media rants. For members who do not already have a Facebook account, setting one up is relatively simple; there is little one needs to do beyond providing your email address and establishing a personal password (a security feature). Providing any personal “profile” information is optional. Once you have an account, search for our group by the name, answer the simplest test question and send the request to join. Many, if not most, of us are not very enthusiastic about Facebook or other social media, but this does allow us to share experiences and information with each other in a much faster and dynamic way than telephoning and e-mails.

In one way or another, I hope to see or hear from you soon!

-Lee

**Editor's Notes:** *The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is a volunteer organization whose mission is to educate and protect native plant habitats state-wide (including El Paso, Texas.) This issue has numerous volunteer opportunities, both long- and short-term. We're a great bunch of people to get to know!*

*Lee Regan is currently our Field Trip Chairman, Facebook Coordinator, and Book Sales Coordinator. THREE jobs! **Thank you** Lee for all your hard work.*

*I am now following my long inactive Facebook account because of Lee's work starting the ABQ Chapter NPSNM Facebook Group. See photos of native plants in their habitat & beautiful places to visit, plant descriptions and much more...*

*If you are interested in volunteering with the Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, please contact any board or active member. ABQ Chapter Newsletter Editor Diane Stevenson can be reached at 918-207-5335 (please leave a message & your name) or distevenson331 [at] hotmail.com*

## New in the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

### You Can Now Certify your Wildlife Garden as an ABQ Backyard Refuge!!

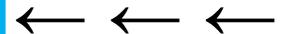
We are so excited that you can now certify your space as an ABQ Backyard Refuge! Please keep in mind that any space can be certified as an ABQ Backyard Refuge including a front yard, patio, balcony, side yard, community space, and/or a backyard. Regardless of the size or location of your space, fill out the certification application to begin the process of certifying your space for the first time.



**ABQ Backyard  
Refuge Program**  
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge



The **cool** new  
sign available if  
you certify your  
yard!



Here's the program link: <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>

**Editor's note:** This program is an excellent way to learn how to landscape your home and office. Landscape design ideas, excellent native plant lists, and many other resources are available on their website. The Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society has been promoting this program since its inception. Native plants are an essential part of the habitat that wild creatures need to survive.

**Be a part of the solution** to provide native plant habitat for conserving pollinators, birds, other wildlife and provide yourselves, your co-workers, neighbors, children, grand- & great-grandchildren an appreciation for wildlife and habitat.

## Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM Wants You to Volunteer!

**Become our Outreach Event Coordinator (OEC)!** We "people" educational displays at various festivals, coordinated by our OEC. Contact any board or active member for more information. . .

La Montañita Coop is sponsoring the Virtual 30th Annual EarthFest 2021 Redux April 17th & 24th. Here's an entry link & form for presenting: [lamontanita.coop/earthfest-apply/](http://lamontanita.coop/earthfest-apply/)

## Etcetera

In case you miss the **April 7 ABQ NPSNM Zoom meeting**, you will soon be able to see the recording through our website —

### **Restoring Healthy Forests in New Mexico**

Collin Haffey of the Rio Grande Water Fund described the work of this public-private partnership, which supports a 20-year program to restore 600,000 acres of forests that have experienced or are at risk of extreme fire.

Creating healthy forests protects New Mexico's water supply, economy, and way of life for current and future generations. Projects include thinning overgrown forests, managing fire, restoring wetlands and streams, educating youth, providing research to policy makers, and creating forestry and wood products jobs. Haffey focused on restoration in the Las Conchas Fire area.

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**Good News!** According to the Albuquerque Journal on March 3, the Poole Property will be purchased to become Albuquerque Open Space! Search for the article at the ABQ Journal “City finds money to complete Poole property buy”.

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### **Volunteer to help West Mesa Christian Church Create a brand new Pollinator Garden on April 10th!**

Pastor Mark Denton is working with his Green Team headed by Ray Morgan to transform a 60 x 30 square foot area into a vibrant landscape to attract pollinators and people to enjoy at West Mesa Christian Church,

8821 Golf Course Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

The soil is sandy but will be amended with donated cured horse manure 1:4 parts with sandy soil. Volunteers will hand water initially with a possible future watering system. The Church WELCOMES any and all NATIVE PLANTS or arid-adapted plants like Rosemary. Our Work Day is April 10th from 10am to 12 noon.

If you have questions or plants to donate, call the Church at (505) 898-8226 to set up delivery, or call Ray Morgan at 972-825-7591 or call Janet Mura at 201-952-3653. If you have a plant to donate and cannot get to the Church, call and we can arrange to pick it up at your convenience.

A big **'Thank You'** to all who volunteer to put their hands in the soil and to those who offer Native Plants.

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**KUDOS to Tom Stewart for the January 28, 2021 “ROOM to GROW; Native Plant Society offers workshops, guidebooks” article in the Albuquerque Journal!!!**

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**2021 CABQ Spring Green Waste Collection** <https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/green-waste>

The City of Albuquerque's (CABQ) Solid Waste Management Department will pick up residential Green Waste at no additional charge. This year's Spring Green Waste collection program is

**Monday, May 3, 2021 to Friday, May 14, 2021.**

Solid Waste customers put Green Waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular trash collection day. All Green Waste must be placed 5 feet from automated trash and recycling containers and any large items scheduled for pick-up. Solid Waste customers must place their Green Waste (leaves, grass, and brush) in trash bags under 40 lbs. or bundle branches in 4 ft. lengths. **Call 505-761-8167 with questions.**

[www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)

## ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO APRIL - JUNE 2021 ONLINE MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, currently online via Zoom due to the pandemic. Meeting links are distributed to chapter members via e-mail prior to the meeting. For more information on programs and/or request a link for an upcoming Zoom meeting, contact Program Coordinator Sara Keeney at ABQ [at] npsnm.org.

Plant lists are available for hikes on your own on the Albuquerque Chapter page of our website, [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org)

**April 7. Meeting: “Restoring Healthy Forests in NM.”** Collin Haffey of the Rio Grande Water Fund will describe the work of this public-private partnership.

**May 5. Meeting: “Native Plant Community Projects Funded by NPSNM”**

The Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE, Santa Fe office) will convene a panel to discuss three native plant capacity building projects funded by NPSNM Jack and Martha Carter grants in 2019.

**June 2. Meeting: “A Flora of New Mexico: 2007- Present.”** Botanist Ken Heil of San Juan College will tell us how he and fellow botanist Steve O’Kane, Jr. were awarded a five-year Bureau of Land Management Grant in 2007 to conduct field studies throughout New Mexico.

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Articles, photos, and news submissions for the Albuquerque chapter NPSNM Spring Newsletter should be submitted via e-mail to Diane Stevenson (distevenson331 [at] hotmail.com) by June 21, 2021. Send me feedback anytime. Any mistakes you see in this newsletter are mine. *Thank you! Diane*

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### Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at <http://www.npsnm.org/about/join>

NPSNM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of native New Mexico flora. The Society, and its local chapters, work to educate its members and promote the conservation of our native flora so future generations may enjoy our valuable resource.

### Membership Benefits

Members benefit from regional chapter meetings, field trips, an annual meeting, and four issues of the state newsletter each year. Some chapters also hold plant sales and annual seed exchanges and offer discounts on a variety of books providing information on native plant identification and gardening with New Mexico native plants.

Additional benefits to members include discounts on New Mexico Wildflower and Cactus posters.

### Albuquerque Chapter Benefits

Members who show a valid NPSNM membership card

Qualify for Plant World discounts without having to purchase a Plant World membership

Receive a 10% discount at Plants of the Southwest

Receive a 10% discount at Santa Ana Garden Center

### NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter

#### Current Board of Directors – 2021

President: Carol Conoboy

Vice President: Tom Stewart

Program: Sara Keeney

Secretary: Dara Saville

Treasurer: Pam McBride

Field Trip Coordinator: Lee Regan

State Board Rep.: Judith Phillips

Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski

Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson

Conservation: Sue Small

Outreach Event Coordinator: **Vacant**

#### Core Group (essential volunteers)

Books: Lee Regan

Facebook Group: Lee Regan

Communications: **Vacant**

Publicity: Irene Wanner

Hospitality and Refreshments:

Jan Henfling

Invasive Weeds Rep.: Don Heinze