

## **Annual Report – Albuquerque Chapter Native Plant Society of New Mexico**

### **OFFICERS**

President: Carol Conoboy

Vice President: Tom Stewart

Program Coordinator: Sara Keeney

Secretary: Dara Saville

Treasurer: Pam McBride

Field Trip Coordinator: Lee Regan

Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson

Representative to State Board: Judith Phillips

Conservation Committee: Sue Small

### **Core Group (essential volunteers, invited to board meetings)**

Books: Lee Regan

Communications: Diane Stevenson (Jan. – June) Carmen Alexander (Oct. – Dec.)

Invasive Weed Representative: Don Heinze

Publicity: Irene Wanner (Jan. – July)

### **PROGRAMS**

Meetings were provided through Zoom from January through November. Meeting attendance was estimated between 25 and 45 for most programs, 30 for our December program, election of officers and holiday potluck.

**January 6. Meeting: “An Introduction to the Moths of the Gila.”** Retired Rice University Biochemist Ron Parry, the “moth man”, has been studying moths since his retirement. This talk will summarize the characteristics of larger moths in each of eight families and provides examples of local moths from each group. You may find that moths are beautiful and as equally interesting as butterflies.

**February 3. Meeting: “Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM) Program Overview.”** Richard Norwood, Information Manager will introduce us to a valuable conservation program. New Mexico’s dramatic landscapes encompass a unique and diverse array of plants and wildlife that make up a natural heritage cherished by the people of our state. Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM) serves the people of New Mexico in their efforts to effectively manage and conserve these valuable biological resources. This talk will discuss NHNM’s conservation science programs (ecology, botany, zoology, advanced geospatial habitat modeling, etc.) and explain how the data from these programs are delivered

the public through several web-based tools and customized data products via the New Mexico Conservation Information System (NMCIS).

**March 3. Meeting: “Build it and They Will Come: Attracting Wildlife to the Garden.”** Wes Brittenham, Farm and Landscape Manager at Los Poblanos Historic Inn and Organic Farm, will describe how native plants can be utilized to create a functioning habitat and pollinator garden regardless of size. Wes will offer plant suggestions as well as other details that will attract and support a wide variety of wildlife- bird species, turtles, toads, lizards, and the all-important insects who are part of a healthy ecosystem. Learn some easily doable practices that will encourage wildlife to share your space with you.

**April 7. Meeting: “Restoring Healthy Forests in New Mexico.”** Collin Haffey of the Rio Grande Water Fund will describe the work of this public-private partnership. The presentation will focus on restoration work in the Las Conchas fire area, including tree-planting efforts. He completed a Masters in Environmental Science and Policy at Northern Arizona University. After working for the US Forest Service in Carlsbad NM, Collin joined the Water Fund in 2014. His other conservation work focuses on forest restoration, reversing post-fire ecological type-conversion, and helping communities prepare for and respond to climate-change driven disturbances.

**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. These funds supported the: 1. New Mexico Nature in Prisons project where inmates at the State Penitentiary built a shade structure and grew native plants while receiving training in native plant horticulture and ecology; 2. Sandia High School Nursery where students cultivated 5000 native plant starts and helped to out-plant them at a local native seed farm site; and, 3. capacity building for New Native Seed Farmers where young farmers in the Albuquerque area received supplies, equipment, and labor support to help them step into the arena of native seed production. All three of these projects help to provide the seeds and plants needed to successfully restore native plant communities in New Mexico. Maria Mullins, Southwest Seed Partnership Coordinator, and Melanie Gisler, Southwest Director will facilitate the panel discussion.

**June 2. Meeting: “A Flora of New Mexico: 2007-Present.”** Botanist Ken Heil, Curator 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. Ken will describe some of the more interesting areas where collections were conducted such as: Sabinoso Wilderness Area, Rio Costilla Park & Land Grant, White Sands Missile Range, and the Gila Wilderness Area. Select photographs of threatened-endangered-sensitive plants of New Mexico will also be shown. Ken will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having over fifty botanists contributing plant family treatments to the flora.

**July 7. Meeting: “Introduction to the Mosses and Liverworts of New Mexico.”**

Russ Kleinman and Karen Blisard of Silver City will present a beginner's guide to New Mexico bryophytes, a group of nonflowering plants that usually prefer damp, shady habitat. Although small, more than 400 mosses, liverworts, and hornworts live here, with new ones being identified yearly. Like flowering plants, most have stems, leaves, and reproductive parts.

**August 4. No Meeting—state conference**

**September 1. Meeting:** Bill Norris, Professor of Biology at NM Western University will introduce us to the plant population of City of Rocks State Park through photography and by describing his work to take a complete botanical inventory of the park. City of Rocks, between Silver City and Deming, known for unusual rock formations, is also a diverse Chihuahuan desert habitat at 5000 feet.

**October 6. Meeting:** Christina Selby will share her adventures over several years of chasing blooms while researching, writing, and photographing the guide book *Best Wildflower Hikes New Mexico: A Guide to the Area's Greatest Wildflower Adventures*, published in 2020. She'll share a photos and short videos to take you on a tour of some of New Mexico's best, most remote, and most diverse wildflower displays throughout the seasons and throughout the state. Interesting information about flower species and changing habitats will also be included in her presentation. Come be amazed by the beautiful treasures that await you from the lowland deserts to the alpine tundra and everywhere in between.

**November 3. Meeting: “Amazing Cacti of New Mexico.”** Ralph Peters, a local cactus aficionado, will share his photos and wide-ranging information about NM and area cactus—along with some ocotillo species. The presentation will include examples from all quadrants of the state including many unusual forms and flowers. He will share the history of the miniature cactus, *Pediocactus knowltonii*, found only on one hill in NM. Ralph is an expert in germinating and growing cacti from seed, especially with challenging species, and the presentation will

include information about his propagation work, as well.

**December 4. Meeting: Annual holiday potluck and officer elections.** Saturday, 11am-2pm. Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW. Socializing and set up the potluck at 11:00. Bring a “*green elephant*” if you wish. We have a meeting room for activities, lunch and our Annual Meeting. The main agenda item for the meeting is election of officers. Stay afterward to enjoy the exhibits and acres of trails and wildlife.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

**April 15, 17, 19\*.** Quebradas Backcountry, Socorro: Arroyo del Tajo (upper) with Lee Regan \*3 trips to accommodate small parking area and separate vehicles.

**May 12. Sandia Mountains:** Sulphur Canyon Trail with Lee Regan.

**May 15. Rio Grande Oxbow** with Lenore Goodell.

**May 20. Ojito Wilderness: Seismosaurus Trail** with Lenore Goodell & Lee Regan.

**May 24. Three Gun Springs Trail** with Pam McBride.

**June 4. Sandia Mountains foothills: Embudito Trail** (first mile) with Lee Regan.

**June 9. Manzanita Mtns: Otero Canyon, Cedro Creek Nature Trail** with Lee Regan.

**June 12. Leonora Curtin Wetlands Preserve, Cienega** with Lenore Goodell & Lee Regan.

**June 16. Sandia Mountains: Tecolote Trail** with Marilyn Warrant.

**July 6. Sandia Mountains: Ellis Trail** with Doris Eng.

**July 15. Santa Fe Ski Basin** with Pam McBride.

**July 21. Sandia Mountains: Rocky Point / Gravel Pit / Trails loop** with Lee Regan.

**August 7. Manzano Mountains: Ox Canyon Trail** with Kent Condie.

**Sept. 8. El Malpais: Narrows Rim Trail** with Pam McBride.

**Sept. 17. Santa Rosa Lake damsite (& Pecos Sunflowers, Santa Rosa)** with Lee Regan.

**Sept. 23. Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen** with Lee Regan.

**October 10. Field trip. Sandia Mountains, Pino Canyon** with Tom Stewart.

**October 13. Field trip. Los Poblamos farm/garden t**

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**September 30.** Poole Property Plant Survey Albuquerque Chapter members met at the newly acquired ABQ Open Space addition on the bluff above the San Antonio Oxbow Open Space to inventory plant species found on the site.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

**August 4, 2021. Robert Dewitt Ivey Plaque Dedication** at Sandia High School honoring his life and achievements (1923-2013). Ivey taught at Sandia High School for many years, and is best known as author and illustrator of Flowering Plants of New Mexico. His wife Vivian and daughters Muller and Laura Mascarenas attended. Current biology teacher Jason Roback arranged for approval of mounting the plaque and planting an Emory oak tree.