

## **Santa Fe Chapter NPSNM FINAL Annual Report for 2021**

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The year 2020 proved to be very challenging for in person meetings of the Santa Fe Chapter. We basically had 2 field trips and one outside gathering to hear a speaker. We did our best to inform our members via email of Zoom events they could attend. Below are the 10 emails sent to our members.

### **1. (2/9/2021)**

Dear Santa Fe, Native Plant folks;

First let me apologize for not keeping in better contact. This isolation has taken a toll. I would like to direct you to 3 Zoom meetings. I think you will find them interesting.

1. Recent talk by David Salman presenting Starting Native Plants from Seed. He did, as always, a great job. And there were some good questions at the end.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MNOTTFjY0RH3U6QpWKXtRQuDQDe7rDP\\_ja4Qe8VWS0SF3IO62ZuT35k5bX8hI62N.oBgYN4g4KWrQt4lC](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MNOTTFjY0RH3U6QpWKXtRQuDQDe7rDP_ja4Qe8VWS0SF3IO62ZuT35k5bX8hI62N.oBgYN4g4KWrQt4lC)  
Passcode: 3n%ZUuv0

2. Topic: Dr Tom Swetnam, Lonesome Pine: Tree Rings and the Plaza Tree of Pueblo Bonito Meeting Recording:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/2cSECAYImBSOtNIP3s38KREUH3Rh1ffXwRQh5ArfIB3pIrFIAVSY2AnP4vVE64DW.uQQSCBLHgtSVMm3m>

The talk doesn't start until 6 minutes 50 seconds in if you want to skip forward. May you enjoy it again as many times as you wish.

3. Santa Fe Pollinator Trail partner recent meeting organized by **Kaitlin Haase**

Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist

Meeting Recording:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/hKgBbN-pqUMtZQ9nYtyRvblQliF9HuKwSLVsa42Wp\\_45GFP9PXyDVo-2Q\\_F4XvblILpWnPqsHjrDLvCR](https://zoom.us/rec/share/hKgBbN-pqUMtZQ9nYtyRvblQliF9HuKwSLVsa42Wp_45GFP9PXyDVo-2Q_F4XvblILpWnPqsHjrDLvCR)

Access Passcode: Gy\$4y0mn

## 2. (4/5/2021)

Dear Santa Fe Native Plant Society supporters: I wanted to let you all know about an upcoming event on Monday, April 19th at 1 pm. Kaitlin Hasse, the Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the Xerces Society will offer a webinar entitled Protecting Pollinators in Santa Fe: Introducing the Santa Fe Pollinator Trail. She will share the pollinator trail plans and habitat kit program with the whole Santa Fe community. Check out their habitat kit program with this link: Habitat Kit webpage. This is an exciting program and I am hoping some of you will participate.

## 3. (4/28/2021)

Below is a message from Christina M. Selby, hopefully some of you can help with this worthwhile project. Thanks, Tom Antonio.

Hello friends of the Holy Ghost Ipomopsis!

Thanks for collaborating in this social media campaign for the Holy Ghost Skyrocket next week (May 3rd-7th). We'll begin posting on Monday as part of #nationalwildflowerweek2021. There are 8 posts, 1 of which is optional. I plan to post twice on Tuesday and Thursday to fit them all into the week, but you can choose to do one a day and include Saturday and Sunday.

Here's the folder to the text with associated links and photos.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/82dug0cgpcyppzt/AADkxJqqC1X\\_wpnbcsmxbJlta?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/82dug0cgpcyppzt/AADkxJqqC1X_wpnbcsmxbJlta?dl=0)

I've highlighted all the text to copy and past into your posts in red to avoid any confusion as to what text to post. You can adjust the text as you see fit, of course.

Don't forget to add all the hashtags at the end of each post! As one social media guru told me, hashtags are like doors into rooms with a bunch of people and we want to reach as many people as possible. Let me know if you have any questions or need help with postings as we go.

Whatever you can do is much appreciated! Thanks again! Christina

## 4. (6/13/2021)\_

NPSNM Santa Fe Chapter Field Trip This Saturday June 19.

**Please note: (You must be fully vaccinated to participate in this field trip)**

**When:** Saturday, June 19 **Where:** Baca-Sierra Vista neighborhood and walk around PNM's 17 acre former power plant property, past the Baca Railyard, two cemeteries and along the Acequia Trail. **Time:** 9 AM. **Length:** Approximately 1.5 hours. Limited to 22 people, to reserve your spot leave a voice mail message at **(505) 989-8654**. 1st come, 1st served. We will identify native plants and also local weeds and along with a history of the area. We will be trying out a new communication system. Each participant will wear a small ear piece enabling all to hear what is being said and allowing the group to not bunch up. **Directions** Meet at 9 am. From St. Francis, take Hickox St. go 6 blocks and then left at Alicia then cross Camino Sierra Vista, where Alicia turns into Felipe Place. Meet at dead end of Felipe Place and the Acequia Trail.

**Leaders:** Dr. Sylvan Kaufman is an Ecologist who consults, writes and teaches about ecology, botany and restoration. She is co-author of "Invasive Plants, Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species" first published by Stackpole Books in 2007. Barbara Fix is a long-time NPSNM member and retired landscaper/gardener. She has been involved in issues affecting the Baca-Sierra Vista neighborhood since the 1980s.

This should be a fun trip. Tom Antonio, President Santa Fe Chapter NPSNM

## 5. (6/17/2021)

Dear Santa Fe Native Plant Society members and supporters: I hope you are all fine. I wanted to put together a few short field trips this summer, but due to the continuing pandemic that will not be possible. However, I have a very interesting new neighbor 4 doors south of me, her name is **Kaitlin Haase** and she is the Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist for Xerces. She has worked on a webinar series that NMSU and the Xerces Society have partnered to put together. This weekly six-part series will cover how to support pollinators and beneficial insects in northern New Mexico, so I am sure there will be some of you interested in attending!

Here is the press release:

*New Mexico State University has partnered with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to host a free virtual course series to inform farmers, educators, and the general public about pollinator and beneficial insect conservation in gardens and farms in northern New Mexico. (please note if the links below do not work, just google Xerces (xerces.org) click on "get involved" and then look for "webinars" to register)*

*The weekly six-part series, "Supporting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects in Backyards and on Farms," will consist of 1 to 1.5 hour live virtual presentations via Zoom. The webinars will take place at 3:00 p.m. MT on Tuesdays from June 23rd through July 28th. Registration is free and required for attendance of the live presentations, though all webinars in this series will be uploaded to the NMSU Youtube channel at a later date with no viewing restrictions.*

*The webinar series will cover a range of topics on pollinators and beneficial insects in northern New Mexico, from getting to know the bees and other helpful bugs in backyards and farms to designing and planting healthy habitat to support those insects and protecting pollinators from pesticides. The exact topics and dates of each webinar with links to individual registration pages are as follows:*

*June 23rd: Pollinators of Northern New Mexico: How to Identify and Conserve the Bees in your Backyard*

*June 30th: Helpful Bugs of Northern New Mexico: How to Identify and Conserve Beneficial Insects for Pest Control*

*July 7th: Conserving Bees in your Backyard: How to Create Habitat for New Mexico Pollinators in Small Spaces*

*July 14th: Attracting and Supporting Crop Pollinators on New Mexico Farms*

*July 21st: Integrating Pollinators and Pest Management in New Mexico Gardens and Farms*

*July 28th: Ask Me Anything: New Mexico Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Expert Roundtable*

*Participants are welcome to attend any and all of the six webinars. Registration is required for each webinar you wish to attend. Live captioning will be provided for all webinars.*

*For more details and to register, visit the series registration page [here](#). Contact Rachel Dunham at [rachel.dunham@xerces.org](mailto:rachel.dunham@xerces.org) with any registration questions. To submit questions about pollinators and beneficial insects for the "Ask Me Anything," email [nmsuipm@nmsu.edu](mailto:nmsuipm@nmsu.edu).*

## 6. (7/15/2021)

Dear Santa Fe NPS chapter members,

I have spoken with Tom Antonio and want to invite you to a wildflower hike on the Cliff Trail at the recently established Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge. I have included several links below that will help acquaint you with the Refuge and some of its history. We have an approved permit from the RMNWR for Saturday, July 24. We can accommodate 20 participants. We plan to meet at the trailhead at 9:00 am (see driving directions below).

Because this field trip is limited to 20 please send an email to [tom@thomasantonio.org](mailto:tom@thomasantonio.org) or leave a text message at (505) 690-5105 to be included on this field trip. First come first served. We are asking that all participants be fully vaccinated against Covid.

[https://www.facebook.com/RioMoraNWR/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/RioMoraNWR/?ref=page_internal)

<https://windriverranch.org/>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8e388589ab594b3c821dc26abe93edab>

*Directions to Rio Mora NWR: The Rio Mora NWR is located north of Las Vegas, New Mexico. From Las Vegas: Traveling north on Interstate 25, (towards Wagon Mound and Raton) about 15 miles. Exit at Watrous/Valmora Exit 364. Turn left at the stop sign (going under the interstate) away from Watrous on NM Highway 161. The mile markers are in descending order, the Refuge gate is at mile marker 16. The road to the trailhead is approximately one mile beyond the Refuge gate. On the right (north) side of the road there is a white sign with black lettering that says Loma Parda. Turn right onto the gravel road and follow it about .25 mile until you reach the quintessential park service outhouse. This is where the future trailhead parking will be. My husband (Wayne) and I will be there to meet you. There will also be a representative from the RMNWR there to welcome you. The loop trail is 2.9 miles long. There is no actual trail; just cairns and flagging. Bring a snack because there is a nice spot about halfway along the Cliff Trail that is shady and scenic where we can take a lunch break. If you have any questions, please email me at [LaGrange\\_L@NMHU.edu](mailto:LaGrange_L@NMHU.edu)*

## 7. (8/12/2021)

**Dear Native Plant Society supporters:**

**Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**, has declared the third Saturday in August Native Plant Day in New Mexico.

This **Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**, plant nurseries here in Santa Fe are joining us in celebrating the beauty and value of native plants.

Please support these fine businesses this Saturday:

1. **Plants of the Southwest** is donating 10% of the proceeds on Saturday, August 15th from both their stores to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.
2. **Agua Fria Nursery** will be making a donation to NPSNM.

3. **McCumber Fine Gardens** will give a 25% discount on native plants sold on Saturday.
  4. **Payne's** will give a 15% discount on native plants in stock and sold on Saturday.
  5. **Newman's** will give a 25% discount for native and drought tolerant plants in stock sold this Saturday. They ask that you please bring a copy of this notice to the store to claim the discount.
- Regards, Thomas Antonio, Pres. Santa Fe Chapter

## 8. (9/16/2021)

### Urban Weeds

Summer's monsoon rains brought weeds! Join Ecologist **Dr. Sylvan Kaufman** to delve into some of the more common weedy plants in the Santa Fe area. Some weeds are native, and some are introduced species. Learn how the introduced species got here and why weeds are such successful plants. Sylvan is co-author of *Invasive Plants, Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species*, published by Stackpole Books.

Please join us at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden (715 Camino Lejo) in their outdoor covered pavilion next **Wednesday Sept. 22 at 6:30 PM**

Due to the limited number of individual audio ear pieces we have, and social distancing the event is limited to only **28** participants.

Please be fully vaccinated and we require that you wear a mask.

**Please email me at ([tom@thomasantonio.org](mailto:tom@thomasantonio.org)) or text me at (505-690-5105) so I can add your name to the list of attendees.**

You might bring a small flashlight or be prepared to use your phone as lighting is limited in the Garden as sunset approaches.

Thanks, and hope you can join us for this interesting presentations. Tom Antonio, SF-NPSNM President

### ALSO

On Saturday, Sept. 18 from 9 AM-4 PM, the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Society has asked me to invite you to a plant sale at Waterwise Gardening, 2902-A Rufina Street. Masks are required.

## 9. (10/16/2021)

On Saturday, October 23d, from noon to 3:30 pm, the Baca-Sierra Vista Neighborhood Association is holding an outdoor Fiesta to celebrate its adoption of its part of the Acequia Trail from the City Parks Department and the creation of the magnificent cactus garden with the Cactus Rescue Project, much of which has been financed the NPSNM Santa Fe chapter. It is at the end of Felipe Place/Alicia Street. The Native Plant Society will have a table with free native seeds, literature and giveaways. Seed throws and tours of the Acequia Trail with the plant list written by Dr. Sylvan Kaufman will happen. If you have extra native plant books or garden tools or can volunteer, contact Barbara Fix at (505) 989-8654. Or, just bring them to the Fiesta!

## 10. (12/10/2021)

As members of the Santa Fe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico you might be interested in these upcoming online lectures presented by the New York Botanical Garden. Best Wishes for the New Year. Tom Antonio

Additional:

Tom -

Forgive me if this is a repeat, but we wanted to share this article with you since the NPSNM generously provided critical funding for the project. Many thanks and happy new year!

<https://news.nmsu.edu/2021/11/native-plant-gardens-take-shape-at-nmsu-cooperative-extension-office-in-santa-fe-county.html>

### [Native plant gardens take shape at NMSU Cooperative Extension Office in Santa Fe County | New Mexico State University - BE BOLD. Shape the Future.](https://news.nmsu.edu/2021/11/native-plant-gardens-take-shape-at-nmsu-cooperative-extension-office-in-santa-fe-county.html)

An area west of the Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Office has been transformed from a barren piece of land to a reclaimed grassland sloping from the office's porch, with an induced meander that channels storm runoff from the upper parking lot and excess rainwater from three cisterns.

news.nmsu.edu

## Native plant gardens take shape at NMSU Cooperative Extension Office in Santa Fe County

- By John Farmer
- [johnalanfarmer@hotmail.com](mailto:johnalanfarmer@hotmail.com)
- Nov 11, 2021





An area west of the Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Office has been transformed from a barren piece of land to a reclaimed grassland sloping from the office's porch, with an induced meander that channels storm runoff from the upper parking lot and excess rainwater from three cisterns. The project was part of the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens that the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP), a Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners program that promotes the use of native plants in the local landscape, is creating. (Courtesy photo)





This area west of the Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Office shows what it looked like before it was transformed into a reclaimed grassland sloping. Volunteers with the Santa Fe Native Plant Project worked in the grassland and additional gardens around the office. (Courtesy photo)

How do you transform a parcel of compacted, nutrient-poor soil, populated sparsely by weeds, into a thriving garden of low-water native plants? You may find the answer at the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens that the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP), a Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners program that promotes the use of native plants in the local landscape, is creating.

The gardens, which are open to the public, are located at the Santa Fe County Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road, at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds.

Several years ago, the Master Gardeners program developed a xeric demonstration garden in front of the office. When the building was remodeled in 2018, that garden was destroyed. Tom Dominguez, New Mexico State University's Santa Fe County Extension agriculture agent who works at the office, agreed to serve as project adviser for a new low-water native plant demonstration garden that SNaPP's project leaders, Helena van Heiningen and Joy Mandelbaum, proposed to cultivate in the old garden's place.

Pam Wolfe and Lesley Mansfield, SNaPP's current co-leaders, expanded the project to the west on reclaimed grassland, and east to create a pollinator patch. A retired statistician, Wolfe sees the garden as a rich "opportunity for experimentation."

The Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners program, Friends of Santa Fe Master Gardeners and New Mexico Native Plant Society have provided funding. With the collaboration of landscape professionals and volunteers, the gardens finally took shape in spring 2021.



The south garden is to the right of the office's entrance. Master Gardeners program volunteers planted a cover crop of hairy vetch and winter rye, and the garden now welcomes employees and visitors with a mélange of native plants, including volunteers from the existing seed bank, that captivate the senses. Spring and summer – when gold, orange, scarlet, amethyst, mauve and white flowers abound – are particularly colorful. Visitors may also spot native bees, hummingbirds, and even a rabbit who enjoys breakfasting at the garden. Plants include golden crownbeard, licorice mint hyssop, spectacle pod and a small desert willow known for its fragrant, orchid-like flowers.

To the west is a reclaimed grassland sloping from the office's porch to an induced meander that channels storm runoff from the upper parking lot and excess rainwater from three cisterns. Aligned with the goals of the New Mexico Healthy Soil Act of 2019, it's inspired in part, Dominguez said, by improvements made to certain New Mexican ranches and forests to improve soil health. San Isidro Permaculture advised on reshaping the slope into three terraces edged by armored berms that volunteers built. By slowing and redirecting water, these features improve infiltration and reduce erosion. The parking lot runoff eventually reaches the meander, which Cullen Hallmark, leader of the Cactus Demonstration Garden, created from a ditch below a culvert.

To prepare the soil itself for seeding, Madrid Engineering, LLC surveyed and shaped the terraces and ripped them with a chisel plow. Volunteers incorporated 34 cubic yards of biosolids compost purchased from the city's Wastewater Management Division, installed a temporary irrigation system, scattered seeds for native grasses and forbs and covered the seedbed with blue grama hay and a mulch binder. Within days the seeds began to germinate, and the new grassland emerged.

This landscape is an example of Plains-Mesa Grassland, which ranges over large parts of eastern and central New Mexico. The dominant grass is blue grama, New Mexico's state grass. A perennial, warm-season grass with fine leaves and blue-green seedheads, it's drought-resistant, cold-hardy, and tolerant of poor soil. And it provides habitat and food for numerous animal species. Other grass species at the gardens include galleta, Indian ricegrass and western wheatgrass.

Volunteers seeded the pollinator patch to the east with a similar mix, but with a higher proportion of wildflowers. It also features plants from a low-water pollinator habitat kit the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation distributed free to residents and local organizations in Santa Fe in September. Plants from the society's low-to-medium water kit were placed in swales and spillways on the west side. Each kit included 33 native plants attractive to pollinators, including perennial wildflowers and a New Mexico olive or three-leaf sumac.

Wolfe describes the project as a "living classroom" that will host programs on native plants, soil testing, beneficial insects and other subjects. She also hopes the progress made so far will inspire more reclamation and restoration efforts in the long term.

*The original version of this article was published in the November 2021 issue of the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners newsletter.*